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Inter-Arab Affairs

Foreign Ministers To Meet in Cairo 30 Aug

NC2908133090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] The Arab foreign ministers will hold an extraordinary meeting at 1800 tomorrow at the Semiramis Hotel in Cairo. During the meeting, the Arab foreign ministers are expected to discuss the Arab League secretary general's report on the resolution issued by the emergency Arab summit held in Cairo regarding Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, as well as to search for all ways that could spare the region and the fraternal Arab countries the dangers of a bloody military confrontation. The conferees will also discuss the possibility of finding a peaceful solution in line with Arab and international will on the basis of the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy to that fraternal country.

Eleven Arab countries have agreed to attend the meeting, thus providing the necessary quorum.

A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that Egypt is exerting its utmost effort to find a peaceful solution that will save the region from the destructive calamities of war.

Four States, PLO Not To Attend

NC2908134290 Paris AFP in English 1205 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug 29 (AFP)—Morocco has decided to attend an Arab League ministerial meeting on Thursday [30 August] following initial hesitation and reports that four Arab states and the PLO would stay away, reliable sources said.

They said Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali is to leave Wednesday for Cairo, the meeting's venue.

The session has been called to consider the application of an Arab summit resolution approved August 10, which urged an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. The summit also approved the deployment of Arab forces in Saudi Arabia following the Iraqi seizure of its southern neighbor August 2.

Morocco strongly condemned the invasion and is contributing to an Arab defensive force—which also includes troops from Egypt and Syria—to protect the Kingdom from any attack by Iraqi units in Kuwait.

Eleven of the 21 League members—the requisite quorum—have agreed to attend the gathering, urged by Egypt and Syria.

Iraq has described the ministerial meeting as divisive and illegal, charging that the original resolution was not approved unanimously and was therefore in violation of the Arab League charter.

Sources close to League headquarters in Tunis said earlier Wednesday that Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Jordan, and the Palestine Liberation Organization would not attend Thursday's meeting.

League Official Arrives in Cairo

NC2908065590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0012 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA)—'Adnan 'Imran, the Arab League's assistant secretary general, arrived in Cairo tonight to attend the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers that will be held in Cairo on 30 August to follow up on the implementation of the emergency Cairo summit resolutions concerning the Gulf crisis.

In an arrival statement, 'Imran expressed the hope that the meeting will succeed in promoting the Arab people's interests.

Saudi Minister in Algiers for UMA Talks

LD2908125290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] On the eve of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] Foreign Ministers emergency meeting in Algiers, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi Foreign Minister arrived in Algiers today as a special envoy of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

Union Confederation Meets on Gulf Crisis

LD2808150390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] An emergency session of the Central Council of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU] opened this morning.

The meeting is hosted by Tunisia and takes place at the request of the General Union of Tunisian Workers [UGTT].

The emergency session will study the Persian Gulf crisis. The Arab trade delegations will discuss the latest developments in the crisis and find ways to settle emerging problems within a purely Arab framework, without foreign intervention.

UGTT Secretary General Ismail Sahbani told the opening of the emergency ICATU Central Council session that at this difficult time through which our Arab nation is passing, in the face of imminent danger, and out of the conviction of all of us in our historic and enormous responsibility toward our nation present and future, the UGTT deemed it its duty to convene this emergency session to study this (?grave) situation and the extremely serious consequences it might entail, and to define attitudes and the ways to approach the situation.

Ismail Sahbani added: The ICATU is today called upon to polarize a united, responsible, and constructive stand, and to take tangible and practical initiatives.

We point out that this morning, after a lengthy debate, the memorandum of the ICATU Central Council on tackling the serious situation in Kuwait and standing up to the foreign military presence was (?canceled), to be replaced by a committee that will formulate a draft resolution for presentation to the council. The committee includes: Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Jordan, and the ICATU Central Council.

The meeting will provide a number of principles and constants that will ensure consistency in all the movements of the Arab trade unions and contacts with international trade unions, and convince them of the justice of the Arab stand.

Palestinian Affairs

Gulf Initiative Submitted to Arab Countries

NC2808191190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1756 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources told the MENA reporter in Baghdad today that the Palestinian initiative to resolve the explosive Gulf crisis has been presented to Arab and Islamic countries and has met with support from them. The sources did not wish to identify the countries in question.

The sources added that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn visited Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at his place of residence in Baghdad yesterday, Monday, and they discussed the various aspects of the developments of the Gulf crisis and current political efforts to defuse the situation and avert a war.

The Palestinian sources said that the initiative provides for holding an international conference which will seek to resolve this crisis and other regional crises, such as the Palestinian issue, the Israeli presence in Lebanon and the Golan Heights, and the Syrian presence in Lebanon. They asserted that the initiative includes a provision for the stationing of Arab forces, including Iraqi forces, in Kuwait for a six-month transitional period during which a referendum would be held so that the Kuwaiti people could choose the form of government they want. This provision stipulates that the Kuwaiti ruling family should not be present in the country while the referendum is being held.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Baghdad for Sanaa today as part of his tour which is aimed at resolving the Gulf crisis.

'Arafat had arrived in Baghdad from Jordan last Saturday [25 August] within the same tour.

MENA Reports on Proposals

NC2808151490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, 28 Aug (MENA)—Diplomatic sources said that the Palestinian proposals on the Gulf crisis have been relayed to the United States through a third party. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's foreign department, conveyed these proposals to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn during their meeting in Baghdad at the end of last week. The Iraqi president did not comment and only asked whether it would be possible for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to come to Baghdad to discuss the proposals.

Palestinian sources reported that these proposals, which they described as an initiative, calls for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait simultaneously with the withdrawal of foreign forces from the region, replacing them with Arab and international forces, holding a referendum on unity with Iraq, and not attacking foreigners.

The MENA reporter in Tunis cited the diplomatic sources as saying that the Palestinian initiative cannot be implemented because it includes the principle of a simultaneous withdrawal that involves Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, but includes at the same time positive aspects such as the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait, the release of hostages, and a halt to the implementation of the resolutions on the economic siege of Iraq.

The diplomatic sources said that Khalid al-Hasan, chairman of the foreign relations committee in the Palestine National Council and member of the Fatah Central Committee, recently proposed several ideas during a series of meetings with Arab and foreign ambassadors that could form the basis of an Arab initiative to resolve the Gulf crisis.

Khalid al-Hasan's proposals include Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait except for Bubiyan Island, deployment of Arab and international forces under the guidance of the Arab League and the United Nations, the return of Kuwaiti families, and the establishment of a transition period during which a referendum is to be held in Kuwait on unity or independence. In case the vote is for independence, the Kuwaiti Government will begin negotiations with Iraq about leasing Bubiyan Island and delineating the two countries' borders, and canceling Iraq's debts to Kuwait in accordance with an earlier resolution of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The diplomatic sources added that Khalid al-Hasan's ideas also include the formation of a fund to help achieve Arab development within the framework of an integrated plan to settle the debts of the Arab countries, and noted that these ideas provide the Iraqi and Kuwaiti sides with guarantees that achieve their interests in addition to the supreme Arab interest.

Commentary Asks West To Reassess Position

LD2808134690 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, since the first day the Gulf crisis started, some Arab leaders, including the brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the State of

Palestine, have been trying to make political moves to contain the Gulf crisis within the framework of Arab diplomacy, and away from the air and sea bridges which have been established between Saudi Arabia, other Gulf countries, and foreign countries, which continue to send their military forces and warships to the region. The U.S. decision to send its forces to Saudi Arabia, and subsequent decisions by Egypt, Syria, and Morocco to send their forces to Saudi Arabia to provide an Arab and Islamic look to the U.S. forces, weakened Arab diplomacy and pushed it into a tight corner. We also note that Britain yesterday decided to send more troops and warships to the Gulf region. Does this kind of behavior give the impression of the West's intention to give Arab diplomacy a chance? Or does it give the impression that a U.S.-Western decision has actually been made to ignite the fuse, and that the question is no longer whether war would start, but when?

Instead of the United Nations' concentrating its efforts on ways to find a political solution to the crisis, we find that the U.S. Administration is using the UN Security Council as an instrument of escalation and for issuing consecutive resolutions on blockading Iraq and stopping medicines and food from reaching its children. Is this the real role of the international organization in general, and that of the Security Council specifically?

The Soviet Union declared its rejection of the use of force in enforcing the blockade on Iraq, and, after the visit paid to Moscow by Iraq's Sa'dun Hammadi, it initiated diplomatic efforts to contain the crisis. We believe that the fate of these efforts will be the same as the previous Arab efforts.

None of the region's peoples want war, particularly as everyone is aware of the consequences of the outbreak of a war that would be qualitatively and quantitatively different from past wars. What then is preventing the Western countries from giving diplomacy a chance? Why use threatening and menacing language, a language that is no longer appropriate for terrorizing anyone. All possibilities are there. We hope that diplomatic possibilities, despite their weakness as a result of clashing with Western military concentration, will gain mastery over the possibility of the outbreak of war, particularly as a war would mean not only the destruction of the region but also the collapse of the world economic order and an consequential, uncontainable world chaos. The Western countries, led by the United States, must reassess their calculations before it is too late.

PLO Leaders Discuss Crisis With King Husayn

LD2808193290 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Brothers Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO executive committee, and Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee, met this morning in Tunis with His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, King of Jordan. The meeting discussed the Arab efforts to find a political solution to the Gulf crisis and the need for the Arab solution to be free from foreign intervention. His Majesty King Husayn yesterday received after his arrival in Tunis brother Bassam Abu Sharif, information advisor to the brother-president-leader Abu-'Ammar, and Palestine representative in Tunis, Hakam Bal'awi. The talks dealt with an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis and the need to reach a political solution to avoid a destructive war in the region. [passage omitted]

Envoy to Egypt Urges Support for Mubarak Call

NC2908064490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA)—Palestinian ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal stressed that the PLO supports President Husni Mubarak's call in his news conference today to give priority to a peaceful settlement between the brothers in Iraq and Kuwait. He said that the Palestinian people have a major interest in extinguishing the fire of sedition in any spot in the Arab world.

The Palestinian ambassador added: Regarding President Mubarak's call for halting the media campaigns, I appeal to all to comply with the president's call in order to provide the atmosphere for resolving the crisis peacefully and without foreign intervention. This is out of concern for establishing the principles of pan-Arab security in general.

Sa'id Kamal said that the PLO has been endeavoring and continues to endeavor, as much as its modest means allow it, to find a peaceful settlement for the crisis in the Gulf.

PLO Representative Comments on Gulf Situation

AU2908102390 Rome ANSA in English 0821 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] (ANSA) Rome—The western press has oversimplified the position of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Gulf crisis and the PLO has always pushed for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and for a solution to the crisis within an Arab framework, according to the PLO representative in Italy, Nimr Hammad.

In excerpts from a radio interview released here Tuesday [28 August], Hammad said the PLO is "neither pro nor against" in the crisis, adding that "from the day after the occupation of Kuwait, we have talked about the withdrawal of Iraqi troops and a meeting between Arab states."

American military presence in the Gulf increases the danger of armed conflict and is not (?helpful in finding) solutions, he said, adding that there has been an upsurge in "anti-Palestinian propaganda."

"Those in the United States who now talk about bombing Iraq," he continued, "are the same who criticized us and want a military confrontation and not a peaceful solution in an Arab framework. I am referring specifically to Henry Kissinger and many others."

"The press has oversimplified our position," Hammad went on. "We Palestinians have said—not to justify the

occupation of Kuwait—that if the Americans are so concerned about defending international (?rights) and the United Nations charter, then why have they even refused to send three UN observers to the Israeli occupied territories? Will all the countries that have followed the American line do something for the Palestinian territories which have been occupied for 23 years now?"

On the issue, Hammad commented he hopes the new expanded role being played by the United Nations "will not apply only to this matter."

He said the PLO "has no faith" in U.S. Middle Eastern policy because "in our experience, it is dictated by Israel's interests... And we ask: If tomorrow France, Britain and the Soviet Union ask the UN Security Council to act for Palestine, will the U.S. again veto any initiatives?"

He charged that for the last ten years Washington "has done everything possible to weaken the United Nations."

He also asked: "Does President Bush have the courage to say that if Iraq withdraws from Kuwait...the U.S. is ready to commit itself to the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories?"

OPEC Affairs

Further on Increased Production Debate

Iran Claims 'Too Soon'

AU2808111090 Paris AFP in English 1036 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Vienna, Aug 28 (AFP)- OPEC ministers were on Tuesday [28 August] trying to reach agreement on an "interim" increase in oil production to help offset a fall in supplies caused by the Gulf crisis, senior officials said.

Speaking after lengthy separate talks among ministers of Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Nigeria and Algeria, officials said that the proposed accord would be finalized at a full session Tuesday of 11 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The officials said 10 ministers who reached agreement hoped to persuade Iran to accept the proposed accord, hammered out in intensive "informal" consultations which began here Sunday [26 August], in the absence of ministers from Iraq and Libya.

But Iranian oil minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said before the meeting started that it was too soon to boost production. He expected the session to result in a "compromise among ministers" rather than a formal agreement.

It would send a message to the oil market, but his own message was different, the minister said. If the Gulf situation changed and if war broke out between the United States and Iraq, then OPEC would have to help the market, and Iran would increase output by 500,000 barrels a day. OPEC's only power lay in its unused production capacity of three million barrels a day, he said.

The main issue for Iran was that the International Energy Agency should release some of its stocks, he said, asking why it was failing to do so. It had stocks equivalent to 99 days' consumption. If it took out merely nine days' supplies, that would represent 450 million to 500 million barrels, covering 100 days of imports of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil, the Iranian minister said.

Officials acknowledged that the accord would broadly meet a call by Saudi Arabia, backed by other major Gulf producers and Venezuela, for official OPEC support to boost production to make up for oil taken out of the market by a United Nations embargo on crude oil from Iraq and occupied Kuwait.

Iran Calls It 'Big Mistake'

AU2808114490 Paris AFP in English 1129 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Vienna, Aug 28 (AFP)—Iran Tuesday blocked a last-minute attempt by OPEC ministers to secure an 11-nation consensus on raising oil production to offset a cutback in world supply under the United Nations embargo on Iraq and occupied Kuwait.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said a proposed accord allowing members of the 13-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) with spare production capacity to boost their output immediately would be "a big mistake."

He told reporters Iran could not accept the deal, and went for a walk saying he would not attend a scheduled midday plenary meeting of 11 OPEC ministers who have held "informal" consultations here since Sunday.

Iraq and Libya have stayed away from the talks here.

The session, described by OPEC Secretary General Subroto as a meeting of OPEC's ministerial monitoring committee, empowered to adjust the organization's production levels, was initially set for 11:00 a.m. (0900 GMT). But delegates said it was delayed pending an attempt to persuade Mr. Aqazadeh to join the majority, led by Saudi Arabia, other key Arab producers in the Gulf, and Venezuela.

Gulf delegation officials hinted the final session might have to be postponed further on the grounds of a legal requirement to formally invite the absentees and await their responses.

Ministers Reach Agreement

AU2908091090 Paris AFP in English 0905 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Vienna, Aug 29 (AFP)—OPEC oil ministers agreed Wednesday [29 August] to temporarily increase OPEC oil production, ministerial sources said.

Gabon's energy minister Jean Ping said there was an agreement, but did not elaborate.

Kuwait's finance minister Sheikh 'Ali Khalifa al-Sabah said there was an accord "without any dissensions."

They spoke as they emerged from a meeting of OPEC's ministerial monitoring committee shortly before 11:00 a.m. (0900 GMT).

The committee met to formally e..dorse measures to ease oil market conditions pending a solution to the Gulf crisis.

Communique Issued

AU2908104490 Paris AFP in English 1028 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Vienna, Aug 29 (AFP)—Oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on Wednesday agreed to a temporary increase in OPEC production to make up for crude oil supplies lost because of the Gulf crisis. A communique issued by an OPEC ministerial committee said OPEC "stands for market stability and regular supply of oil to consumers" and that OPEC "shall consequently increase production in accordance with need."

It gave no specific figure for the production increase.

The accord, which called on consumer countries to "actively participate in the stabilization process" by drawing from their stocks, was endorsed by ten of the 13 OPEC countries. Iran "did not accept the agreement" and "did not sign it", an Iranian ministerial aide told Agence France-Presse.

Iraq and Libya did not attend the meeting, which began as "informal consultations" on Sunday, transformed Wednesday morning into a formal session of OPEC's ministerial market monitoring committee.

The majority decision means that Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela and other OPEC countries capable of pumping more crude will be able to increase their production by at least three million barrels a day, OPEC officials said. This would make up for a large part of crude oil supplies withdrawn from the market as a result of a U.N. embargo on oil from Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait, which were producing around 4.5 million barrels a day before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2.

The ministerial statement expressed the view that current market trends "may well be prolonged, thus increasing the uncertainty of oil supply in the fourth quarter of 1990 and the first quarter of 1991."

It called on consumer countries to chip in by activating the emergency oil sharing agreement of the International Energy Agency "which was specifically designed to meet eventualities such as the present situation," and also by utilizing the present huge accumulation of stocks owned by the oil companies.

The statement said additional supplies from OPEC and the release of stocks by consumer countries "should be primarily directed towards the countries of the Third World which ... will be most immediately and adversely affected by any supply disruption."

The ministers blamed the current high level of oil prices on several factors, including a shortfall in production and supply and "panic reaction to the prospect of a deterioration in the present situation in the Middle East."

They also cited "the failure of the developed countries to appropriately respond to the shortage in the market" and an "aggravation" of the problem of a generally insufficient refining capacity.

The statement strongly emphasized the temporary nature of the new OPEC production arrangement, which would be applicable only until the present crisis "is deemed to be over."

It said OPEC would revert to the arrangements of a production and pricing pact hammered out by OPEC ministers in Geneva on July 27 as soon as the market situation returned to normal.

The July agreement set an overall OPEC production ceiling of 22.5 million barrels a day and a reference price of 21 dollars a barrel for a "basket" of key crudes.

If the market price of the basket was above this level at the end of the crisis, OPEC would raise both the ceiling and the reference price to achieve "an equilibrium price" which would "not depend on OPEC alone but also largely on the decisions and actions of the consumers," the statement said.

Algeria

King Husayn, Delegation Arrive in Algiers

JN2808160990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Algiers from Tunis this afternoon as part of his majesty's current tour of the Arab Maghreb countries. The purpose of his tour is to hold talks on the Gulf crisis with his brother leaders from these countries, and to bring together joint Arab principles to arrive at an Arab solution to the crisis.

His majesty was accorded an official reception, headed by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. Senior Algerian officials also took part in the reception ceremony.

His majesty is being accompanied on this visit by Mudar Badran, the prime minister, al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, his majesty's political adviser.

Makes Arrival Statement

LD2808202390 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan arrived today, Tuesday, in Algiers from Tunis within the context of his tour of the Arab Maghreb countries. He was welcomed on arrival at the airport by President Chadli Bendjedid, who was accompanied by Prime Minister Hamrouche; General Khaled Nezzar, minister of national defense; and Foreign Minister Ghazali. Following the welcoming ceremony, the Jordanian monarch stopped at the VIP lounge and made a statement to TV reporter Ahmed Bouchama:

[Begin recording] [Bouchama] We hope for an Arab solution, especially after the failure of the Cairo summit and the stationing of foreign forces in the region.

[Husayn] I am fully satisfied because if the determination is there, the solution can only be an Arab solution. This has been my conviction from the start, and remains so.

[Bouchama] Can we have your comment on the resolutions recently taken by the Security Council, especially Resolution 665?

[Husayn] The attempts we are making are part of an Arab effort, by us and by brothers who have not obstructed through their attitudes the possibilities for action to achieve the Arab solution. This is what I will be discussing, God willing, with my brother [Bendjedid]. We believe the solution must be an Arab solution, and that attitudes which justify and provide a cover for the foreigner for interference in our causes—a matter which not only conflicts with our reality in the current stage, but also threatens the future of the Arab nation and its coming generations—should not be adopted. [end recording]

Following this, preliminary talks between President Chadli Bendjedid and King Husayn of Jordan have begun at the El-Mithak residence. They were attended on the Algerian side by Prime Minister Hamrouche, the foreign minister, and the minister of national defense, and on the Jordanian side by the prime minister, the head of the royal cabinet and the political advisor to King Husayn.

Appeal by Support Committee for Iraqi People

LD2808200390 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Appeal by the Algerian Support Committee for the Iraqi People following the recent and serious decisions of the United Nations Security Council allowing the use of force in imposing a total embargo against the Iraqi people:

The Support Committee for the Iraqi People issues an urgent appeal to the governments of Arab countries—particularly to the Algerian Government—to mobilize every appropriate means to guarantee basic food supplies and medicines to the Iraqi people. The Committee also calls on Algerians and political associations and parties to participate in the creation of a large movement of aid and solidarity, and in collecting and sending donations and [word indistinct] to the Iraqi people, who are threatened with genocide of an unprecedented nature.

In this context the Committee particularly appeals to the Algerian Red Crescent, the mission of which is to provide help [word indistinct] to people in danger, to contribute to the success of this action, and [words indistinct] noble mission.

Egypt

Mubarak Holds News Conference on Gulf Situation

NC2808134590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1147 GMT 28 Aug 90

[News conference held by President Husni Mubarak on 28 August; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. After the speech I made on 8 August and concluded by calling for an emergency Arab summit conference to find a solution to the existing problem—namely, the Iraqi invasion and occupation of the state of Kuwait—I believed that this was part of our overall efforts. I will relate to you what went on at the summit. Some of you brothers may have an idea about this, but the citizens may not be aware of the details. I will give some details that concern every citizen so he will not hear propaganda from here or there that may not be true. Rest assured that I will give you the facts without equivocation.

We are proceeding along a line to find a peaceful solution to the issue. I know what war means and I know what it means when the family's sole support goes and when the children become orphans, the women become widows, and when the standard of living plummets to the point

where we cannot feed the citizens. I understand very well what war means. Therefore, I am extremely eager that we find a peaceful solution to avert war, bloodshed, and the devastation that war brings.

I have sent Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to the Soviet Union to talk with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Dr. Butrus Ghali has gone to Paris. I have sent many messages to the nonaligned states, the Islamic Conference Organization member states, and African states. We are following every path leading to peace. To any foreign delegation—be it American, French, or any other nationality—that comes to me to talk about this matter, asks about the possibility of war, I say: Please, let us not mention the word war; I do not like to say this three-letter word because it is very dangerous. We must exhaust all possible and even impossible peaceful means, because this will spare us many tragedies.

During his latest contact, the U.S. President asked a question and I replied: Let us continue with the peaceful methods. We must avert war. You may maintain the forces as a form of pressure. Of course he did not say so, and no one knows if they are going to carry out military operations or not. We cannot tell. This is not a secret we are trying to hide. There are no secrets in policy. Whatever any person says on the presidential person-to-person level, I divulge it because I know it will surface a week or a month later. One must be straightforward and tell the truth so as to fear nothing.

Our efforts for peace are basic. Work for a peaceful solution is basic. This is the most guaranteed and lasting way not to be dragged into serious currents.

We move now to the summit and what happened there. I called for a summit on 8 August in a statement broadcast over Egyptian television and radio. That morning, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi telephoned me at 0830 or 0900 to call for a summit, and I agreed to that. Half an hour later, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid telephoned me, calling for an urgent emergency summit, and I told him, I agree with you. In the meantime, the idea of making a statement that day had been brewing in my mind since the morning, and I thought of calling for an emergency summit. After that, President Hafiz al-Asad called me and said a summit was a must. Regardless of the discussions, we called for a summit and it was held. The only object of the summit was to find a way out for Iraq, to avoid the destruction that would result from military force.

I contacted most of the presidents, in addition to Iraq through the Iraqi ambassador, and I begged them to send a representative. I told them: You must be present at the summit. If the president will not come, then a delegation must come with some flexibility so we can find a safe way out of this predicament. A delegation came, it was a Wednesday [8 August], and the leaders followed. The last one, the Yemeni president, arrived at about 2115 in the evening. I planned to have a meeting on Thursday, but at noon I realized that the presidents would be late, so we decided to start the summit on Friday [10 August], which we did. Before the summit, [Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister] Taha Yasin Ramadan asked to meet me before the summit, and in fact I was pleased about that. I called him and I waited for one hour. He was late, but I waited and said never mind. He came and I told him: We want you to show flexibility at the summit so we can find a solution. I told him: We do not want to get into problems that could lead to troop deployment or similar things. We want to defuse the situation. He told me: Historically, Kuwait is ours. So what was the summit for? I invited you to show flexibility so that perhaps we could find a way out of this impasse. But no way. He said no; this is our land and we will not leave it. So what are we going to do at the summit? He said: That is it. So finding that there was no hope, I said, let us wait for the summit.

We met Friday at approximately 1215. I opened it with a speech, in my capacity as chairman of this summit, and then the session was adjourned from 1300 until approximately 1715 for Friday prayers. In the meantime, we were all sitting in the hall and the lobbying [preceding word in English] began. We expended a lot of effort and there were several proposals. Some brother writers and journalists understood that a presidential delegation would be sent to President Saddam Husayn to see if he might respond to them. The discussion lasted for a long time, and then we reached a proposal. I do not quite remember who among the presidents were present, and we told His Majesty King Husayn: Please, your majesty, go and get in touch with President Saddam; tell him that if he will be flexibile we will send a delegation. Because if we send a delegation and this delegation returns empty-handed, the situation will be difficult. We will get into procedures similar to those that were taken against us in 1979 during the Baghdad summit [where Egypt's membership in the Arab League was suspended]. I do not want to resort to such procedures because it would look like as if we were taking revenge, and I do not like revenge in such things. He [King Husayn] told me: Impossible. There were other people sitting there, and I was not the only one to hear this.

So we waited until 1700 and the Iraqi delegates went around threatening all the delegations. Whenever any delegates passed by, they told them: We will turn your country upside down. To another delegate they said: We will give money to the opposition against you, and similar threats. But there was not much chance as at the Baghdad summit [in 1979], where there were threats, Carlos [as heard], and other things that terrorized the presidents, and they agreed to the decision by a majority—not unanimously, although the decision required unanimity—and the decision was passed even though it was illegal, since unanimity is required for decisions that concern measures taken against a member state of the Arab League.

We attended the session and began to talk. While I was sitting there, I received information that—without mentioning names—a representative of one state said that he would fight an honorable battle for the sake of Iraq. All

of us want to fight an honorable battle for the benefit of Iraq, but we do not want to fight each other at the summit conference. I was surprised; I could not understand what honorable battle this was.

We began the afternoon session and some of the presidents spoke. 1715, 1800, 1900 came and went. At approximately 2030 or 2100, His Majesty King Husayn told me: Let us finish and vote on the resolution. I was afraid that if we voted on the resolution proposed by the State of Oman before most of the heads of state spoke, they would make a lot of noise and withdraw and we would present a picture of anarchy. For your information, I have attended African summits for 14 years. Never in my life have I seen anything offensive from any head of state. At each African summit I had seen respect and discipline, not pandemonium. The summit would end with everything in order, even among those engaged in dispute. As far as our summit was concerned, there was pandemonium and shouting. By God, what is this? This was the first time I had seen such a summit, and I knew why heads of states did not want normal summits. When King Fahd did not want a summit, I understood why. It is because of the uproar they create. It all started when four states began playing games because they wanted to abort the summit in any way they could, so the Cairo summit would subsequently fail and end without adoption of a resolution. They would then slander Egypt.

I noticed this process and took note of all the maneuvering that were going on. I do not want to name the states concerned because I do not want to embarrass anyone. I continued until they came up with a statement saying there was a proposed draft resolution before the chairman. Their proposal: A head of state presented to me the names of about four heads of state who should go to Baghdad. I put the proposal to the vote, but none of them approved it; all of them rejected it.

The head of another state told me: We want a closed session with the heads of state in order to talk. All of this was meant to postpone the issuing of a resolution and cause us to emerge without one. I was aware of this game from the beginning. I asked them: Who approves of a closed summit? Only two of the 20 heads of state approved, and the rest did not approve. The same head of another state said: All right, I have presented another draft resolution stipulating that a committee consisting of the heads of six states go to Baghdad to talk with President Saddam Husayn. He put me at the head of these states. I told him: I will not go, because I know in advance what will happened, because I had tried. I asked: Which head of state would like to go? I read out their names, but all of them refused—including His Majesty King Husayn. All of them refused. Who would like to go to Baghdad to try to find a solution for us? All were quiet; not even one raised his hand.

Therefore, I told them: I have no choice but to ask for a vote on the draft resolution that is presented by the Sultanate of Oman. I began the voting by reading out the names. Three, I think, expressed reservations about some clauses in the resolution, three abstained, and two rejected it. As far as I can remember, twelve approved the resolution and eight abstained, rejected, or expressed reservations. Therefore, there was the required simple majority and there was no need for unanimity. Thus, the resolution was regarded as having been adopted. Among the states that expressed reservations were Algeria and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. The colonel does not support Iraq's occupation of Kuwait at all. He rejects this, but he has reservations about the foreign presence. I do not defend the foreign presence. A prominent Islamic writer and Islamic thinker says: The problem does not lie in their presence, but in the catastrophe that takes place in their absence. By God, he is right. What has brought this about? Who has brought the foreign forces? We did. We are devouring each other. Who would have had sufficient time to protect Kuwait? Egypt? I cannot withdraw half of my forces in a second in order to send them there. I absolutely cannot.

Everyone has the right to seek the assistance of any forces in order to defend his country. I am not looking for justifications, but I am merely speaking of the right to self-defense. Our problem, we the Arabs, as I have previously said, is the following: If I say something and someone disagrees with me, then he is regarded as a traitor and an agent. We use the most abusive, most terrible, the filthiest terms to describe him. This is what is happening now, all the time. If you disagree with the occupation then you are an agent, an imperialist, and so on. Very regrettably, this is our method, and apparently it will not change. I want us to rise to the level of events and be civilized. If we disagree, we should discuss the disagreement instead of abusing each other. This is the method used by all civilized countries.

Rumors are now circulating in the world: Egypt is doing so and so. All of it is talk that has absolutely no connection with the facts. Some of them are alleging that Egypt said this and said that. What I state is this: When I declare something in Egypt's name, I declare it unequivocally, knowing full well that it will become known because there are no secrets in politics. There are no secrets in politics. If I discuss a certain issue in private with a head of state, it will become public.

Nevertheless, I possess numerous secrets which I am not at liberty to divulge. I will not talk about them now. Neither do I like to reveal the secrets of some countries because it is not in the public interest to do so now. However, if I am forced at some time to speak, I will do so. I will state the facts without any exaggeration. I hope we will preserve a modicum of cooperation. Abusive language will not get us anywhere.

However, we apparently have numerous recordings of invectives. As soon as we disagree with each other, we play the cassette on the air, and you can hear all the invective you want. Friends, we want to talk objectively, hold a political dialogue, disagree in views—in short, be civilized. The method we are currently employing will never do. The method by which someone swallows up

another country will not do either. We are speaking of Arab solidarity, cooperation, and amity. Regrettably, this solidarity does not last more than six months or a year, and then it stops.

We spoke at length about holding an Arab summit. We met at a summit in Baghdad, but then the regular summit could not be held. It is no use. The heads of state are also afraid to hold a regular summit because a summit is ostensibly called to discuss one thing, but there is always something else that is concealed that eventually comes to the surface. There is absolutely no trust. This is the issue. I do not want to speak about the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] because there are many stories to be told. If I am forced, at some time I will relate to you its secrets in full and what happened before the ACC was established so the citizen will be in the picture. I will do this if I am forced.

Numerous rumors are coming out of Jordan. Officials are talking, and I do not want to name them. We have everything on this matter, however. I hope we will not be forced to talk about what we used to regard as secrets among ourselves.

The other subject I want to discuss after this concerns President Saddam Husayn's message, the open message he addressed to me. I sent him a message urging peace. I wanted to give him a peaceful way out. When there was talk of holding a minisummit, which I suggested on the evening of the first day of the invasion—when His Majesty King Husayn came to me—I proposed a minisummit so we could work out a scenario to save face and find an exit out of this impasse. I previously told you how I talked to His Majesty King Husayn about his going to Iraq and discussing two basic points: The withdrawal, and the return of legitimacy. We would then have deployed troops between the two sides and then sat down to talk. If he [Saddam Husayn] would just have told us specifically that he agreed to that, then I would have called for a minisummit involving some president in Cairo or in Jeddah, as agreed, where I would have told the presidents there is flexibility, so we could have found an Arab way out of this crisis. I tried everything to find an Arab way out; even at the summit I was searching for an Arab way out, although some say the summit was preplanned. I tell them that the summit was held on the spur of the moment. When several presidents telephoned me, I thought it was a good idea for finding a way out.

When His Majesty King Husayn returned, he said Iraq agreed to a summit, but we did not discuss the two points. But these two points provided the basis for the summit. If he agreed to the withdrawal and the rest, then we could hold the summit. But he [King Husayn] said the summit would be on Sunday. So on what basis would I invite the leaders for a summit on Sunday? What were we going to do at the summit: exchange accusations and abuse? It would not (?look right). We want to be civilized. So naturally as a result, I did not call for the summit. The summit was not for a dialogue; it was based on those two points. There was no approval of these two points; there was insistence on the position, and there was determination to maintain the occupation.

So I addressed a message to President Saddam; it was full of pleas. He answered me with an open message to which I will naturally not respond. He told me that I do not come from a royal family and that he descends from a noble family whose lineage dates back to the Prophet. Since I am not a descendant of the prophet, he is in a higher position than I am. Therefore, I told myself it would be better not to respond to a descendant of the prophet because if I did I would commit an extremely grave sin. [laughs] Therefore, I will not respond to this message because I urged him to make peace in the name of Arabism, Islam, the peoples, Arab solidarity, brotherhood, friendship, the Islam he is talking about—everything. But his reply was far from answering my requests and, therefore, I will not respond to it because I discovered I was wasting my breath and they [the Iraqis] will not change their minds.

However, I still hope he will respond to the call for peace before it is too late and before we all regret it. A call for peace. Wars are hateful. Two hundred billion dollars were spent on the war with Iran for eight years over Shatt al-'Arab, and now Shatt al-'Arab has been abandoned; things have been returned to the way they were under the 1975 agreement, and the agreement is once again considered valid and in force. So what was the eight-year war for? Were it not for that war, his [Saddam's] economy would have been better, he would not have needed Kuwait's money, and he would not have invaded Kuwait. Now he has left Iran and occupied Kuwait. Is this sensible? As for the excuse about the distribution of wealth, the poor people in Egypt, I do not understand. Do poor people exist only in Egypt? He has plenty of poor, and there are plenty of poor in all the world's countries. Egypt was the richest country in the region, the richest country in the region, and there are poor everywhere.

We are talking today about the distribution of wealth, after the Iraqi-Iranian war exhausted all the money and debts were increased. All right, then where was the distribution of this wealth from 1973 until 1980? A barrel of oil sold for $40. It was the zenith of wealth. Oil production in Iraq almost equaled the production of oil in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and was more than double Kuwait's oil production. Where was the distribution of wealth then? Why did no one think of it then? Why did no one think of Egypt's poor then? They wanted to butcher Egypt. Where was all that money? You were [word indistinct] this wealth then. No. The Baghdad summit was held. He [Saddam Husayn] terrorized the leaders to sever relations with Egypt, not to back Egypt, and not to help Egypt as if Egypt had committed a crime when it retrieved its territories and was working to retrieve the rest of the Arab territories.

I believe you all know what took place at the Baghdad summit. I believe you all know about the terrorism that took place at the Baghdad summit. When we voted in the

summit held here we did not undertake any terrorist action at all, because this is not in our nature. This story of wealth is an excuse, or a strange tale which I do not understand. Why is there talk about wealth these days? The wealth was when oil was $40 and not $16. At $40, the funds were incalculable and the wealth was vast and Egypt was in dire need of economic backing. We did not get even a single dollar in aid. We hear about wealth only in these days.

Will Iraq give anything to Egypt when it takes the wealth? I do not want to give away other secrets. It is not nice to tell them now. But it appears that a time will come when I will be compelled to tell them and will do so frankly, and thus can reply to him.

That is all I have today and I will listen to any questions. Mr. Makram?

[Makram] Mr. President. We are not concerned with the exchange of accusations but with facts. In his meeting with the editors in chief, King Husayn criticized Egypt on two basic points. The first one is that he believes Egypt rushed things because it wanted to speed up the condemnation and undermine the summit's success. The second point is that he says—and we all naturally know the significance of what he says—that Your Excellency sent a message to U.S. President Bush, urging him to deliver the air strike against Iraq.

[Mubarak] We did not hold the summit to speed up the condemnation. They understand it as they will. If you intend to understand something wrongly then you will do so. It all depends on intentions. The summit was held and most leaders knew that we wanted to find a solution, to find a face-saving way out. Speeding up condemnation? Did Egypt issue a condemnation then? The Security Council, all the international organizations, and the Islamic Conference Organization, and so on issued condemnations. Who had not issued a condemnation? The Arab summit? We only reiterated this when we learned there was no solution. What should we have said? Should we have come out and said no, that this was a legal occupation? What could we say as an Arab summit? That the occupation was legal? Of course we had to condemn the occupation. Did we say we must take measures? No, we did not say so. Did we say let us sever relations? No, we did not say so—as they did to us in Baghdad. Did we say that aid should be cut off? No. We said nothing except condemnation, and the resolution was clear. Our brothers in Jordan are on the side of the other party for one reason or another which I am not willing to reveal.

As to the statement—I heard it and read it—that while our brother his majesty the king was in the United States, he heard that I had sent a message to the U.S. President telling him to strike. Why do they say this? To justify his inability to do anything in the United States? Then do not issue a false accusation. If I am a person who does not speak about peace and if I tell the Americans to strike, then I will say it openly because I know that it will be published in the press within two days, that the U.S. President will not deny it and will say: President Mubarak advised us to strike. There are no secrets in politics, and this is why I know that whatever I say will be published. If I am looking for peace and am doublefaced, then I will talk peace on the one hand and say strike on the other. I saw a U.S. delegation today and its members tried to talk to me about war. I told them: I do not want to talk about war because this is a three-letter word, but a dangerous one, and its consequences are terrible: The killing of the innocent, blood, destruction, all this.

It is imperative for us to search for all peaceful solutions. We must have patience in order to reach a solution. However, for me to say: Go ahead attack—I am very sorry if these are the words of our brother King Husayn, unless these remarks are attributed to him to place obstacles in the way. [sentence as heard] However, if he really made this statement, I will tell him: Your Majesty, it is a shame, you must not do this. If anyone told you this, then ask me, because I will tell you the truth. I will be frank because I am not afraid of the truth or of frankness.

[Unidentified reporter] Your Excellency, Mr. President. It appears that my question also is about King Husayn. I mean, we know that King Husayn is saying again and again in his numerous meetings that, in the first place, the Arab summit was held to facilitate foreign intervention. He is also saying repeatedly that the Iraqi president did not lie to anyone, has never lied to anyone all his life, and is truthful in all he says. How true is this? Secondly, what is King Husayn's true role? Thank you.

[Mubarak] I am really surprised at the brother His Majesty King Husayn—and I have heard that he has made such remarks to newspaper chief editors. I am not saying President Saddam Husayn is a liar, but I am saying that my words are true. I do not lie; I state facts, actual events. What was said was not said only to me. It was said to the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad, to King Hassan II in Morocco, to King Fahd in Riyadh, and to many others. They were all told that there was no intention [to attack Kuwait]. Then Gorbachev was also told this. The Japanese were told the same. God! The Yemeni president says [sentence as heard] God! Why would I say something untrue about him? The other thing that took me by surprise was that there were witnesses.

I do not want to begin an argument. This talk occurred between him [Saddam Husayn] and me when I visited him on a mediation mission. We were alone. There was no one else at all. There were no delegations. I was sitting with President Saddam Husayn in a hall on the first floor [place not further identified]. I arrived at the airport and we took a car together to the building. We went upstairs together and began talking. Everything I say is true. I will not wrong anyone and it is not in my character to invent a story about anyone. If he says he is more truthful, then everyone... [Mubarak changes thought] I also say that I am truthful. I will not say more truthful—I say I am truthful, not more truthful than anyone else. Public opinion must judge what is true and what is not. I do not want to accuse anyone.

Now concerning the claim that the preparation to hold a summit was intended to facilitate foreign intervention, I say that foreign intervention had already been requested before that. Now why do we speak of foreign intervention? Let us first see what the cause of the foreign intervention was. God! You occupied Kuwait. This country wants to defend itself. I would deal with the devil to defend my country. Still, foreign intervention was requested before the summit. To say that the summit facilitated this! Facilitated how? Not one American, not one foreigner contacted me about the summit. The idea for a summit was born on the day I made the statement, and through an initiative from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, President Chadli Bendjedid, and President Hafiz al-Asad. They said: We agree. I asked them: If I call for a summit today, will you come? They said: We will come immediately. This gave me the idea. I was in Alexandria at that time. I left for Cairo and presented the entire idea. I did not even have a written speech or anything like that. Why facilitate [foreign intervention]? All right, get out of Kuwait and I will be the first to confront the presence of foreign forces in the region.

Really, I regret that our brother King Husayn, who is aware of the facts and of the circumstances more that I am, and who has all the details.... [Mubarak changes thought] I do not want to be dragged into an argument. However, I would like to say: Your Majesty the king, this is not right and let us keep the amity between us.

['Abd-al-Sattar] I am really very, very pleased with Your Excellency's statement about the perils of war. All of us are very sure that Egypt is exerting Herculean efforts to prevent the outbreak of a war in the region. This is an extension of the first statement Your Excellency made at the beginning of the problem. You said: Beware of internationalization. We are fully aware and are confident that all of your efforts and those of every envoy Your Excellency sends to any area in the region are sent on a mission to try to prevent the situation in the region from exploding. This is really very heartening and is consistent with the sublime Arab interests, because if a war breaks out in the region, it will not be confined to expelling the Iraqi forces from Kuwait. No one is convinced of the existence of any justification for the occupation of Kuwait. No one is convinced at all that the invasion should continue. All say that withdrawal is a must.

I say that Your Excellency will go down in history if you achieve the miracle of preventing American intervention in the region and reinstating Kuwait's freedom through Arab efforts. I believe that Egypt is qualified to do so by virtue of its historical role, by your political ability, and by your awarness of the question of the war. You said that you know what war means. This time, not only mothers will be bereaved and thousands of people will die, but the region will be heavily devastated. It is absolutely not in my interest for Iraq to be divided and torn apart into provinces, states, or such things. What's his name [Saddam Husayn] will vanish. Saddam Husayn will vanish. He is bound to fall whether war takes place or not. He is finished because this is the second adventure in which he is pushing the Arab people and his own people into war. I hope that this Egyptian political stand and decision is explicitly clear.

[Mubarak] Mr. 'Abd-al-Sattar, I believe that Egyptian policy is clear. We are not among the advocates who invite foreign forces. When we were hit in 1967, we called the Russians when we learned there was a solution. We invited the Russians. If it is a question of looking for an Arab solution, then what have we been doing and still are doing? I am telling you: We want to solve the problem for you. You tell me: No. I say: Please, for God's sake. You say: No. I say: I implore you, let us find a way out for you. You say: No. You only know how to say no, so what shall I do for you? This is not the right way. They have sent people to various states to ask them to accept the fait accompli, namely, that the occupation of Kuwait is a historical right. They are reiterating: historical right, historical right. If it comes to historical rights, we have historical rights in many places. Algeria and Morocco have historical rights. In Africa there are many historical rights. The map would change completely if we were to go by historical rights. Africa was clever when it issued a decision, I think in 1963, recognizing the borders left behind by colonialism. When it comes to us, when we close our eyes for a little while, one tries to steal from the one next to him.

Mr 'Abd-al-Sattar, if we are to look for historical rights, there are too many of them. You are aware of this. However, we are not among those who support invasion by force. Instead of saying that we must oust the foreigner who has been invited by a state, why do you not get out so the foreigner can get out? Once you get out of Kuwait, the foreigner will have no excuse to be here. All of us will stand together. All of us will stand together and tell the foreigner: You must get out. There is no such thing as colonialism, and none of us will accept this. [Words indistinct] we will deploy Arab forces. Otherwise, how can we resolve the issue? Still, we are pursuing every means and there is still hope. There is still hope if the other party responds.

Since you are obstinate, not changing your mind, and saying "no, no, no," what do you want me to do? Shall I hit you to make you change your mind? Then this means that we will enter war. Or do you think you have a proposal?

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Mubarak] The siege in effect now is meant to suffocate him. We do not want the Iraqi people to die. These people are our brothers. It should not be only one person's decision that would destroy the world. This is why we are trying all available means. You can see the war of embassies. What is its purpose? Why are you rousing the hostility of the entire world? They have cut off water and electricity to our embassy, but the staff is staying put; they are tired and food is rotting. Why? Where are the people you put in factories? You keep on putting foreigners there, but an operation will come

along and strike everything and it will be a catastrophe. We are tolling the bells of danger, but no one wants to believe. They understand that these [forces] have not come to play. Does it make sense to send these massive forces there and the U.S. President.... [changes thought] Tomorrow they will say that this is an Egyptian plot just because I am saying this. No. I am a man with a military background and I know. All the massive forces there can destroy not only Iraq. They say: We will triumph over you. What triumph? Are we fooling each other? How will they be defeated? They have weapons and equipment that we do not have.

Let us then be reasonable and argue logically. It is not a question of bravado. We used to say: If they do not like the Mediterranean Sea, then they can drink the Red Sea water. And we got the 1967 beating. These are lessons. They compare him to 'Abd-al-Nasir. There is absolutely no point of comparison, and I say this confidently. 'Abd-al-Nasir was a nationalist and a liberator from colonalism who did not shed the blood of a single person. Never. It would be a hateful injustice for me to compare 'Abd-al-Nasir with Saddam Husayn. Never.

We are urging all countries to pursue peaceful means to a solution. If it is a question of war and we come out in favor of it, then it will start in one week and it will not stop. The world wants us to say that it should be resolved through war. War is an easy word, but its consequences are terrible. Let us not be presumptuous and say that we will defeat, destroy, and pack them in bags. No, let us be reasonable and argue logically and reasonably so the public can understand. Why keep rousing public opinion? What next? Then we entered into Islam and religion, and I do not know what.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] that Egypt has agreed to the idea of simultaneous withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the foreign forces? Who has closed the road to simultaneous withdrawal? We know that you have agreed to simultaneous withdrawal: The Iraqi forces would withdraw from Kuwait and...

[Mubarak interrupts] They opposed it but then came out with a plan calling for a withdrawal from Israel [as heard], a withdrawal from Trinidad, a withdrawal from Singapore, a withdrawal from the Falklands, and so on. Are we fooling each other?

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Mubarak] At the summit.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Mubarak] All of them. Even those opposed were not in fact convinced. Withdrawal remains simultaneous. But what else? There must be a simultaneous withdrawal and the deployment of an Arab force capable of disengaging the two parties; otherwise he would come back and swallow it, and others too, after this force withdraws. I do not believe that any country would object to simultaneous withdrawal if [an Arab force] is deployed. This is known, known. Any kind of withdrawal is rejected. He said: We have a historic right to this territory. You heard that they are ready for Israel to withdraw and all invading forces in the world to withdraw, but they will not withdraw from Kuwait. Let us talk about Kuwait while taking into consideration historic rights—that is, we will not leave. He is determined. Mr. Mursi.

[Reporter] You are at the heart of the situation and you know all the secrets of the current consultations. Are we to understand from Your Excellency's remarks now that the peaceful efforts have reached an impasse?

[Mubarak] I cannot say that they have reached an impasse because sometimes a person is very stubborn, but when the situation deteriorates he might relent, regain his senses, and return to sound assessments. His advisers might awaken a little from their sleep and become aware of information that will lead them astray. We want to preserve the Iraqi people. We do not want Iraq to be destroyed. We do not want bloodshed. We do not want catastrophes. This is a fraternal Arab country. Despite what they are doing to us, we are being very careful to preserve this. There used to be very good relations between Saddam Husayn and myself. I spoke with him, King Husayn, and the Yemeni president. We were in the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. To tell you the truth, I did not understand the [purpose of] the ACC until now. When this aggression took place, I realized what the ACC was. Very regretfully. Then, when we issued our statement on 3 August, the Iraqi first deputy prime minister said the following at a party meeting: We attempted to contain Egypt by making it a member of the ACC. We made it a member, but failed to neutralize it. So we had been invited to join in order to be exploited! We are not a water hose [common Egyptian saying meaning a puppet or a toy to be played with]. No, this is Egypt. Egypt has a history, civilization, principles, and its leading policy. It can never change this. When you invade a country, I will say no to you. Even if you are a close friend I will tell you: No, this is wrong. Do you want me not to issue the statement, not to proclaim Egypt's stand? I postponed it for one day. I knew all the time that public opinion was waiting for me and asking where is Egypt? I was compelled to postpone it for one day because I had been given to understand that there was hope they would be able to respond to the appeal and that King Husayn would come back with an agreement instead of create a furor in the world. He told me that there would be a furor if I issued the statement. I issued the statement because I discovered that there was no hope. I did not spoil the summit as they are saying. I proposed the summit and issued the statement when I discovered that we had failed to find an agenda for the summit.

[Reporter] We know all about Your Excellency's efforts to find a peaceful solution within an Arab framework if possible. I want to ask a technical question, however. Our forces went to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and some Gulf countries to assist Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries in deterring any aggression against them. Still, we certainly have no control over the larger U.S. forces.

What will happen if the United States begins the war and it is no longer an issue of defending Saudi Arabia? What will our position be?

[Mubarak] I want you to tell me frankly what you mean.

[Reporter] I am speaking seriously. We are in Saudi Arabia to defend Saudi Arabia if it is attacked. According to our official announcement and according to King Fahd's announcement, we will not commit aggression against anyone, but we will deter anyone who tries to commit aggression against us. This is Egypt's declared stand because our forces are not offensive forces, according to the officially declared figures. Their number is not such that it permits an attack on anyone, I mean. However, there are huge U.S. forces and we cannot control the stands, interests, and intentions of the United States. What will happen if the United States begins the war and it is not merely a defense of Saudi Arabia?

[Mubarak] There is a principle of war that states offensive action is the best method of defense. Nevertheless, do not understand from this that I know anything. I am telling you this from my military experience. It is a well-known military principle that offensive action is the best method of defense. Even to those who play football, offensive action is the best method of defense. If you merely hold the defense, the other side will score goals against you. It is the same thing. What I am afraid of is that Iraq will perpetrate provocations that will compel it [the United States]—because it has nationals detained by Iraq—to carry out operations. If Iraqi forces approach the Iraqi border [as heard] where our forces are stationed, our forces will immediately confront them. I hope we will not reach this point because this will be an Arab-Arab confrontation. For this reason I am appealing to Saddam Husayn. I am saying to him please, please in the name of humanity, in the name of the Arabs, solidarity, and the Islam of which you speak, please defuse the bomb because you are about to destroy the world. He will not gain from this either. All of us will lose, but he will be the biggest loser. The Iraqi people will be the real losers in this operation. Why? Why? Just one word from one individual will save us from coming disasters for several years. One word: All right we will withdraw.

A withdrawal would not mean weakness. On the contrary, it would be done with dignity, in response to the appeals and entreaties made to him in the names you have mentioned [as heard]. I often heard President Saddam talk about Islam, benevolence, and similar good things. So where are these things now? I am not abusing anyone. As you noticed, I do not utter a single bad word about anyone. I just ask to save the Arab nation and the region from the calamities of war and devastation.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President: There is ambiguity in the Arab position and the Arab situation. King Husayn's trip to the Arab Maghreb countries, which followed his trip to Yemen and Sudan, and which will end in the British bastion with Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, is quite an ambiguous position. Could you shed light on that position?

[Mubarak] Mr. Zakariya: I am as confused as you are over this, really confused. I ask: What can Yemen do? What can our brother [Yemeni President] 'Ali do? President 'Ali is against the invasion but says that Iraq must remain strong. All right, let Iraq be strong without an invasion. As for Sudan, I do not know the role it is playing, although I see that it is vacillating. Let it move around, and I hope God will make these moves a success. As for the Arab Maghreb, I hope it will not be.... [Mubarak changes thought] I hope they say what they are doing, because in politics everything will surface. Let no one think that it is possible to hide things in politics.

Before the Americans hit Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdadi they came to me and asked me to participate. I refused and told them I did not accept this. At the time, the brother colonel said Egypt was involved, but I did not want to respond. In the end, in August the WASHINGTON POST released the text of the dialogue between the U.S. official and myself. I told him [Colonel al-Qadhdhafi] about this when we met. So nothing can be concealed in politics. Margaret Thatcher's position is clear. She is 100 percent behind the Americans; she is fully convinced of what she is doing, and she sent troops. I do not know what King Husayn is going to tell her. King Husayn did not get in touch with me to tell me what he did in Sudan and Yemen, and what is he going to do in Spain. I do not know what they could possibly do; I do not know.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President: As part of the frankness to which you have made us become accustomed, there were hints yesterday that Egypt could be pressured into sending more armed troops to Saudi Arabia, and this was linked to the visit by the Congressional delegation that met with you today. I would like a comment from Your Excellency on this point. Another thing, do you attach much hope to Perez de Cuellar's mediation mission? Thank you, sir.

[Mubarak] Be certain that no one can pressure us on the issue of troops. Absolutely. We do not accept pressure from anyone on earth, no matter who he is. Let this be known. When you hear that someone put pressure on Egypt... [Mubarak changes thought] ...like a few days ago when someone said there was pressure over condemnation or something similar. I say no; Egypt has always voiced its opinion in all situations. We do not accept pressure. I myself by nature do not accept pressure. Egypt and I do not accept pressure at all. God has given us reason. If I believe that I should send a force there and that I have interests there—why are all the countries going there? Let us speak frankly. They are going there because they have interests—oil—and they have an interest in defending a fraternal country like Saudi Arabia. If I know that my forces will perform their role and I am fully convinced, then be assured that I will tell it to the public and will not hide it. As I have said, we have sent forces. These things cannot be covered up. Interest and circumstances make us think: What should we do? I know what I can do from the reaction on the

streets. One Iraqi told an American television interviewer that President Mubarak committed a grave mistake. The interviewer asked: What mistake? He replied: He is isolated from Egyptian public opinion. This made me laugh. I say to them: Let Iraqi public opinion speak freely, as I am allowing Egyptian opinion to do. I hope for this because it would mean that we have reached the epitome and would be a marvelous victory. I know Egyptian public opinion quite well, but they do not.

As for Perez de Cuellar, we encourage every effort toward peace. We pray to God to give us a ray of hope. As long as there is life there is hope. I hope that we can reach a solution.

[Reporter] The Iraqi president is playing the hostages card and is using the foreigners for what could happen between him and the foreign forces. Your Excellency knows that there are large numbers of Egyptians in Iraq and I believe that this vast number could be used in bargaining, pressure, or influencing Egypt. What is the Egyptian Government's stand on safeguarding the lives of those Egyptians and protecting them from any harm that might befall them?

[Mubarak] Speaking frankly, if the Egyptians return it will be detrimental to them, that is, for Iraq. We are like any other country who has citizens there. The United States, France, and all countries have citizens there. I hope that President Saddam Husayn's behavior will not get the foreign countries, and not Egypt, to the point where they will use force and where there will be no control [preceding word in English]. He appeared with those children. I do not know what adviser told him to do so. They are in fact giving him advice which is causing a very bad reaction around the world. What is this about children and this eating only cornflakes! Our children in Egypt do not eat cornflakes. We knew about cornflakes only after we grew up, or when we traveled abroad and stayed in hotels, and when they started to make it here. I do not know what his advisers are doing, but they are (drowning?) the world. As for our citizens, we have a responsibility to them, just like other countries. We cannot dither and we want to get our citizens out. We saw people coming out humbled. We have exerted all efforts to move them. We brought Saudi planes; Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's planes came today to transport them, and ships too. I believe that the pressure has eased. All of this shows you the extent of our concern for the Egyptian citizen because he is our son and brother. We are very concerned about them and I am following up on every place where there is congestion. There are planes from the EC. Libya today sent two planes, I believe. Syria spoke to me and opened the doors. There is in fact full response. But he should not use our citizens to break our necks. This is why I am telling him: Beware, do not get to the point where a mistake is committed which would provoke the foreign forces as they would start an uncalled-for military operation. Thank you.

'Abd-al-Majid Returns, Comments on Talks

NC2808191790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Cairo from Frankfurt tonight at the end of a three-day visit to the Soviet Union and a stopover of several hours in Frankfurt for talks with FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said on arrival that his visit to the Soviet Union was extremely fruitful and encouraging, adding that he met with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and handed him a message from President Husni Mubarak. He added that he discussed with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, the most important issues in the Arab arena, the Gulf crisis, and other issues related to relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union. He noted that President Mubarak had sent him to the Soviet Union to discuss the latest developments in the region. He stressed that the two countries agree on many points and are keen on finding a peaceful solution to the crisis in the Gulf and avoiding a military solution. He added that President Gorbachev handed him a message for President Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Ghali on Gulf Peace Chances, Al-Asad Visit

JN2808143090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Interview with Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Faridah al-Shubashi; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency the minister, at the conclusion of your talks with President Mitterrand and French officials you indicated that there is a ray of hope that a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis is possible. Do you believe that this ray of hope—however thin—is still there after Iraq's decision to declare Kuwait as an Iraqi governorate?

[Ghali] In fact, the announcement that Kuwait has become an Iraqi governorate places new obstacles before a peaceful solution. However, despite these fresh obstacles, we must work and work until we manage to find a peaceful solution to this crisis. I understand that there are very few opportunities for achieving a peaceful settlement. However, this must not mean the end of efforts to find a peaceful settlement. The UN secretary general has begun his contacts. He has a special status, and represents the United Nations. There are efforts being exerted by some Arab leaders. Undoubtedly, these efforts must be based on resolutions, headed by the UN Security Council resolutions which demand the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

[Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency the minister, talking about the UN Security Council resolutions, President Mitterrand and Premier Michel Rocard yesterday raised the issue of the inaction of the United Nations and the

international community toward implementation of the resolutions concerning the Palestine question. Do you believe that there is an international promise now to address this problem?

[Ghali] Undoubtedly, if the resolutions concerning the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait are implemented, this will help implement the resolutions concerning the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West bank and Gaza Strip, because this would be a precedent from which we can proceed to move once again to find a way to implement Resolution 242, which was issued in November 1967 and which demands the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all Arab territories occupied after 5 June 1967.

[Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency the minister, regarding President al-Asad's visit to Cairo today, is there anything new regarding the Egyptian-Syrian contacts on the Gulf crisis?

[Ghali] Undoubtedly, this visit falls within the framework of the two presidents' consultations over regional diplomatic moves working for peace in this region. The visit also comes within the context of diplomatic coordination between Syria and Egypt.

[Al-Shubashi] It is widely said that many states have been harmed by the economic and sea blockade imposed on Iraq. How has the Egyptian economy been harmed by the crisis?

[Ghali] Without doubt, the Egyptian economy has been gravely harmed, both because of the suspension of monetary transfers of Egyptian expatriates in Kuwait and Iraq and because of the drop in Suez Canal revenues in view of the suspension of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil exports through the Suez Canal. This crisis will certainly affect tourism in Egypt. Tourism is one of the important sources for financing projects in Egypt and supporting the Egyptian budget.

More Returnees Arrive at Cairo Airport

NC2808141090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA)—A total of 4,800 Egyptian workers who returned from Kuwait and Iraq arrived at Cairo airport in 24 flights from the Jordanian al-'Aqabah airport last night. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia Allocates Buses To Move Returnees

NC2808141990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has decided to allocate 100 air-conditioned and fully equipped buses, accompanied by two ambulances and repair units, to join the Egyptian fleet of buses transporting the Egyptians returning from Iraq across the Jordanian borders to Amman airport on their way back to Egypt. Sayyid Qasim, Egyptian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, said this contribution by the Saudi Government is in line with the instructions given by King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, whereby the Kingdom offered six aircraft and a number of vessels to participate in transporting the Egyptian returnees.

AL-AKHBAR Comments on Saddam's Situation

NC2908082390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—The Cairo newspaper AL-AKHBAR stresses that regardless of the events and surprises that might occur within the next few days or hours, there is one thing about which nobody, regardless of his political beliefs and sound understanding, will differ. This is that the person who has generated concern and tension everywhere will not remain on the stage of world events for a single moment when the last chapter of the tragedy is over.

In its editorial today, the paper notes that the continued presence of this ruler, who has gone out of his mind, who continues to rule the Iraqi people with iron and fire and to deprive them of every right to freedom and democracy, and who continues to make foolish decisions, means that the world will remain in a state of anxiety, fear, and tension waiting for yet another one of his paroxysms. This man has put himself in the place of the infallible gods, [as received] who are indisputably obeyed. No person or state will accept this situation, the paper adds.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR says: His recent behavior is represented by his hesitation, nervousness, and violation of every international and diplomatic norm, in addition to his empty threats to the world major powers because of the tightening of the noose around him. Perhaps this behavior shows he believes his days for ruling his country are numbered.

Writer 'Astonished' by 'Unethical' Yemeni Stance

JN2808205290 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 27 Aug 90 p 12

[From the "Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Excerpts] I am really astonished with the position of the Yemeni government and people toward the Egyptians working in Yemen. There was a sudden change after the Yemeni government had explicitly taken the side of Saddam Husayn in his aggression against Kuwait and his insistence on antagonizing the entire world community. Our sons in both the northern and southern halves of Yemen began to receive the worst treatment, as though "principles" were sold and bought at the cheapest price.

I have recently received a number of letters from Egyptians working in Yemen, expressing regret for the years and months they wasted in building this country which we had considered to be a friend, ally, and brother, until the Gulf crisis erupted. [passage omitted]

Honestly, I never expected such shameful acts by the Yemeni government and people. I traveled to Yemen several times and heard the Yemenis exalting Egypt, its leadership and people; and stressing constantly that without the Egyptian soldier, teacher, engineer, and worker, they would not have come out of the dark graves.

This total turnabout, then, must have its motives and reasons. I believe that these motives are utterly unethical; they are, first and last, governed by "material" considerations. Saddam Husayn took the shortcut to achieving his goal in Yemen. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Minister Ghali's Visit to France

WA2808183390

For reportage on the visit by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali, including reports on his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, please see the France section of the 27 August West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Libya

Military Cadets Recalled From Annual Leave

LD2808135890 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The armed peoples cadets of the elementary and intermediary ranks in military schools and academies who are on annual leave are called upon to report to the Military Academy and the Technical Military School in Tripoli on 29 August for an important matter.

Integration Talks With Sudan Conclude in Tripoli

LD2808140390 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The unified Libyan Arab-Sudanese working team in charge of preparing projects on the process of two countries' integration concluded its second meeting held in Tripoli 22-27 August 1990 within the framework of the mission with which it is entrusted—the preparation of the executive concepts of the mechanism of Libyan Arab-Sudanese integration.

The statute of the general secretariat, the executive program for integration, and other organizational resolutions have been drafted and will be submitted for endorsement by the meeting of the higher committee for integration.

The minutes of the meeting of the working team were signed today in the presence of the brother secretary of the affairs of the Arab Maghreb Union attached to the General People's Committee and Dr. Faruq al-Bashari, candidate secretary general for integration in sisterly Sudan.

Morocco

'Inhuman' Iraqi Treatment of Diplomats Condemned

LD2808223190 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Following the decision that was made by the Moroccan Kingdom to keep its embassy in the State of Kuwait open—in accordance with its principled position which considers Kuwaiti legitimacy as still existing in accordance with the relevant international laws, documents, and norms—Iraqi authorities began to pressure and harass the personnel of the Moroccan Embassy in the State of Kuwait, including the charge d'affaires. As of the morning of Saturday 25 August, Moroccan diplomats have been prevented from entering the offices of the Moroccan Embassy. They were also threatened in a violent manner and told that unless they close the embassy and leave Kuwait altogether, other measures would be taken against them. Furthermore, one of the Iraqi military pointed his weapon at the face of one of the Moroccan diplomats and asked him to raise his hands and walk a long distance.

In view of this inhuman treatment by the Iraqi authorities; given the depletion of the money and food of the embassy personnel and the latter's being prevented by Iraqi authorities from drawing their money from the banks of Kuwait; and in light of the impossibility of satisfying the embassy staff's most basic needs, especially that their wives and children remain with them in Kuwait, the personnel of the embassy have been compelled to leave Kuwait for Baghdad under threat, where Iraqi authorities informed them they were prohibited from leaving Iraq. The authorities justified their behavior by saying that their diplomatic immunity had become void with the expiry of the date that had been set by the Iraqi Government for the closure of the embassy in Kuwait. They also justified their behavior on the pretext that the embassy staff had not obeyed the instructions issued by the Iraqi authorities in this regard. This means that they have become hostages like the many foreign residents of Iraq who have been prevented from leaving the country.

This bad treatment has been meted out to Moroccan diplomats and personnel by the authorities of an Arab country which had always been linked to Morocco by the strongest of ties. Such behavior also constitutes a flagrant violation of the Vienna agreement concerning the treatment of diplomats.

The Ministry of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation affirms in this respect that Morocco reserves the right to take the appropriate measures against this arbitrary behavior on the part of the Iraqi authorities. Moreover, despite all that has happened, it considers its embassy in Kuwait as still existing and open in accordance with international principles and norms, and in harmony with the resolutions of the Arab League and the Security Council in this respect.

This was a statement by the Ministry of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

The speaker of parliament invites the members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; members of the Borders, Occupied Territories, and National Defense Committee; members of the Interior, Local Governments, and National Development Committee; and members of the Information, Culture, Endowment, and Religious Affairs Committee to attend an important joint meeting which will be held tomorrow at 1100 at the parliament building. The presence of the deputy members of the three aforementioned committees is compulsory.

Sudan

Military Chief Denies Iraqi Bases in Country

EA2808182890 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 28th August (SUNA)—Armed Forces commander-in-chief [title as received] has reiterated that there are no Iraqi military bases in Sudan. General Ishaq Ibrahim 'Umar told daily AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH that those disseminating such news were aiming to undermine Sudan's stance in solving problems through rational means. General Ishaq has told the paper that all concerned media were invited to visit Sudan and pinpoint the position of these bases.

Kuwaiti Envoy Praises Al-Bashir Peace Efforts

EA2808183390 Khartoum SUNA in English 0928 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 28th August (SUNA)—The Kuwaiti ambassador to Khartoum, ('Abdallah al-Sa'ri), has hailed the efforts being exerted by the chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], General 'Umar al-Bashir to realise peace in the Gulf area. In a press statement to the daily AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH, today, the Kuwaiti ambassador expressed hope that Sudan would succeed in its efforts for the benefits of the Arab nation.

He welcomed the Sudanese expatriates who returned from Kuwait to their homeland, affirming that they will return to their work in their second country after the solving of the current crisis, which he described as a hardship which will be overcome.

Ship Returns From Al-'Aqabah With 309 Citizens

EA2808183990 Khartoum SUNA in English 0933 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Port Sudan, 28th August (SUNA)—A Sudanese ship arrived here yesterday from the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah bringing 309 Sudanese expatriates who return from Kuwait along with 270 cars and their personal properties. The ship, Nyala, had left for Jordan last Thursday [23 August] for transporting the Sudanese expatriates following the interception of the American warship to the Sudanese ship Dunqulla which left there for the same purpose. Sudan and Jordan have protested against the interception.

Paper Cites 'Wicked Intentions' of Superpowers

EA2808182190 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 28 August (SUNA)—Current diplomatic efforts are proceeding toward achieving a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and bringing peace to the region. Sincere Arab efforts are gathering strength out of a desire on the part of a number of Arab leaders to serve national interests and their understanding of the dangers threatening the nation arising from the build-up of the foreign presence in the region.

This is what AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH said in its leading article today regarding the tour undertaken by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the chairman of the Revolution Command Council. The paper said: In the framework of the Arab efforts being made and a sound understanding of the situation, the wicked intentions and the strategic interests of the superpowers in the region, concealed under the cover of the powers of the Security Council and the exercise of those powers, must be exposed, for therein alone lies the key to an Arab and international solution to the problem.

Interior Minister Abu-Salih Departs for Libya

EA2808184290 Khartoum SUNA in English 0931 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 28th August (SUNA)—Member of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], Interior Minister Major General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, yesterday left for Libya. Speaking before his departure, Maj. Gen. Abu-Salih said his visit comes in the context of solid relations between the two countries. A protocol on the security fields would be signed during the visit, he added. Maj. Gen. Abu-Salih would also attend the Libyan celebrations marking anniversary of the 1st September Revolution.

Bahrain

Defense Secretary Says UK To Strengthen Presence

NC2908095390 Paris AFP in English 0932 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, Aug 29 (AFP)—Britain is to strengthen its military presence in the Gulf, Defence Secretary Tom King announced here Wednesday.

Mr. King, who arrived in Bahrain late Tuesday to inspect British forces in the region, told reporters that a British destroyer, the H.M.S. Gloucester, and three minesweepers would join the frigate Battleaxe, already deployed in Bahrain.

Rapier anti-aircraft missiles would also be deployed at the Al-Muharrak airport in Bahrain, where British Tornado fighter-bombers are stationed.

Amir Receives Thatcher Message From Envoy

NC2808211490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2045 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, 28 Aug (WAKH)—Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah received a written message from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher related to current developments in the Gulf region and Britain's support and backing for the steps taken for the sake of stability in the region.

The message was delivered by British Defense Secretary Tom King during his audience with the Amir tonight in the presence of His Highness Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah and heir apparent and commander in chief of the defense force His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al-Khalifah.

His highness the amir of Bahrain stressed the country's firm policy on implmenting Arab and international resolutions on the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and restoration of the legitimate authority under the Amir of Kuwait His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

For his part, the British defense secretary expressed his country's support for this stand that is based on international legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions.

The Amir of Bahrain hosted tonight a dinner banquet in honor of the British minister.

Kuwait

Defense Minister Reportedly 'Leading' Resistance

PM2808155190 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 22-28 Aug 90 pp 12-13

[Report on interview with Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah by Matar al-Ahmad in Jeddah; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] When the evil Iraqi invasion of Kuwait took place Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah was at the staff command center and his office was exposed to Iraqi bombardment, so he was forced to move to another location. His capture was one of the major objectives of the Iraqi invasion. AL-MAJALLAH has interviewed the Kuwaiti defense minister, who is leading the real resistance in Kuwait and who receives daily reports from Kuwait on its activities, which he describes as "effective resistance playing a major role and feared by the occupying troops."

On the evil Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Shaykh Nawwaf says that it was not expected of fraternal Iraq, which we helped in its predicament and supported in its long war. [passage omitted]

In view of the Arab leaders' assurances, the crisis was dealt with in a natural way in military terms: "We did not deploy our forces on the border lest we provoke our brothers in Iraq, although we noted the presence of their military deployments, which could only be described as abnormal."

At the same time efforts and mediations were being made by the Arab leaders, first and foremost King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and President Husni Mubarak, to contain the crisis. As a result, it was agreed to hold a meeting in Jeddah. The Kuwaiti side at the meeting was headed by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, whereas the Iraqi side was headed by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Iraqi deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council. The meeting reached the known end and the two sides agreed to continue dialogue and resolve disputes through negotiations.

Shaykh Nawwaf expresses his surprise at the way the invasion was carried out: "Who would have believed that it would take place a few hours after the Jeddah meeting and the heir apparent's return to Kuwait. At 0100 hours we were informed by the border check points organizing the traffic between the two countries that there were abnormal movements in terms of personnel and motorized units, and that the Iraqi Army was close to the borders. At 0130 they told us that they entered and crossed the border area." [passage omitted]

When the invasion started the Kuwaiti defense minister was in the staff command building, which was bombarded, and the Kuwaiti forces confronted the invaders. "We ordered our forces to move, but frankly, we cannot confront Iraq, either in terms of personnel numbers or in terms of military equipment. I emphasize that our forces did their duty and played their role even though they were not ready for, nor did they expect, the invasion"

Observers and citizens noted that the invading Iraqi troops headed for certain positions and seemed to have a good knowledge of the layout of Kuwait city—which supports the theory that there was collusion from elements inside Kuwait itself. The defense minister says: I have no doubt at all that about the truth of the existence

of a fifth column inside Kuwait, as the Iraqi community there totals between 70,000 to 80,000 people."

The minister points out that the ground, air, and naval forces were used in the treacherous Iraqi invasion—"the Army to whose building Kuwait and the Gulf states, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, contributed to make it a force for the Arabs, not against them. The invasion plan included, as a major objective, "the seizure of the palaces of their highnesses the amir, the heir apparent, and the defense minister." They were very disappointed to learn that the Kuwaiti symbols had not been harmed but, rather, were able to follow up the issue at the international level, securing the world support which has isolated Iraq internationally.

During the invasion military positions and air bases were exposed to Iraqi bombardment. But, despite that, the Kuwait forces managed to secure the removal of most of the warplanes, and no advanced military equipment was captured by the Iraqi forces. Even warships were destroyed when we heard of the invasion. And we damaged a number of motorized units and some facilities so that the Iraqis would not benefit from them.

When the invasion started no one expected the invading forces to spread and occupy Kuwait as a whole. "Because the worst that we expected was that Bubiyan Island and the al-Rumaylah oilfield would be seized as a result of the dispute; we did not expect Iraq to go beyond that."

Following the bombardment of the staff command center Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah moved into the auxiliary defense command center and remained there until the ammunition ran out. As for the number of Kuwaiti Army captives, the minister says "they do not exceed 15, and I know the people well."

In his interview with AL-MAJALLAH Shaykh Nawwaf affirms that "the Kuwaiti and Gulf people will not keep silent about that invasion. And, proceeding from their belief in God and loyalty to the amir and his government, the Kuwaiti people have started to organize popular resistance against the aggressors. And despite all the harassment, they have struck terror in the hearts of the invading force's officers and men in the residential areas. The resistance has now spread to the city districts. Resistance elements managed to capture a group of Iraqi forces. And we receive reports that 12 to 14 Iraqi soldiers are killed daily. And individuals from the Kuwaiti ground, naval, and air forces have joined the appropriate sectors of the Saudi Armed Forces. This is in addition to the Peninsula Shield force representing the Gulf Cooperation Council states, including Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Council Assails Iraqi Move Against Diplomats

LD2708214390 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1956 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Statement from the Kuwait Council of Ministers; from the "State of Kuwait Television Message" program]

[Text] The State of Kuwait, which has always tried to be hospitable to the diplomatic missions accredited to it and provide care and safety for their staff in addition to the attention it gives to the nationals from fraternal and friendly states who live on its soil, follows with great pain and disapproval the brutal practices of Saddam Husayn's regime against the staff of the diplomatic missions and the foreigners detained in the State of Kuwait. The least that can be said about these practices is that they are incompatible with the international agreements such as the 1961 Vienna International Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Moreover, these practices—which include the detention of civilian women, children, and men with the intention of endangering their lives—are disapproved of by the revealed religions and constitute a violation of the International Declaration of Human Rights.

While feeling deep concern for the fate of the staff of the diplomatic missions and that of the innocent hostages, the State of Kuwait urges all states of the world to condemn the criminal practices of this regime and to work together to curb this savage aggressive drift by Saddam Husayn's regime and save the innocent citizens, diplomats, envoys, and residents from the tyranny of this evil and rancorous regime.

Oman

Citizens Return From Kuwait, Iraq Via Jordan

NC2808201790 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] A second group of Omani families returning from Kuwait and Iraq via Jordan arrived in the Sultanate this morning. A total of 99 passengers arrived on a Royal Air Force of Oman plane. Oman's air force planes will continue airlifting operations between the sultanate and Jordan to transport Omanis back to the sultanate.

His Excellency Muhammad Bin-Sultan Bin-Hamud al-Busa'idi, the sultanate's ambassador in Jordan, has said that he has not yet received news of any Omani casualties in the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis.

In a statement to the Oman News Agency, his excellency said that all the Omanis who had arrived in Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq were in good health and had not encountered any harrassment or difficulties during their journey from Kuwait to Jordan. His excellency said that the only problem that the embassy in Jordan faced was that many of the Omanis who fled Kuwait did not have proper travel documents; some had only photocopies of their passports and some had only temporary documents issued to them by the Omani Embassy in Kuwait.

His excellency met the Jordanian ministser of the interior to make special arrangements for Omanis crossing the Jordanian border. His excellency had also been in close contact with other GCC state embassies to make the same arrangements for Omanis travelling by land

accross the GCC countries. His excellency said that the number of Omanis who had arrived in Jordan since the crisis began exceeded 800 people. The embassy had rented rooms in several hotels to accommodate them until their departure.

Saudi Arabia

Commander 'Prepared' for Chemical Weapons Threat

LD2808204890 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin- Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces, has stated that the joint command on the Saudi front set up to defend the soil of the homeland and its unblemished sacred sites is working side by side with the sisterly and friendly forces. His Highness described what is taking place to confront any aggression against the Kingdom as an international consensus and a world event to avert the danger facing the entire world and the kingdom directly.

At a news conference held at the headquarters of the command of the Saudi Royal Air Defense in Riyadh, His Highness said: The kingdom of Saudi Arabia will, under its wise leadership, stop anyone and any state that tries to destabilize its security or pick any quarrel with our dear and beloved people.

His Highness added: We will all offer our lives and sons to protect these sacred lands, which by the grace of God we are serving under the leadership of our supreme leader, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Correspondent] What is your assessment of the chemical danger which we have been hearing about, how serious is it, and to what extent is the man [Saddam Husayn] prepared to use it? We would like your opinion as a specialist in this field, in order to assure ourselves of what could realistically be expected from this man in this respect.

[Khalid Bin-Sultan] A lot was said about the first use of chemical warfare. Indeed, President Saddam in his madness even used it against his own people. All this is anticipated, but we are fully aware of his limited capabilities, and we also know—and he knows it full well—that should he use it it would cause the total destruction of Iraq. At the same time, with regard to the Saudi Armed Forces, we are prepared for this type of warfare. I would like to stress that towns and civilians are least exposed to this danger, because in fact Saddam will head first for the military concentrations. Thank God we have the means to foil his plans. I do not wish to expand on this matter, but I would like to reassure our beloved people that all this is being taken into consideration. [end recording]

Mecca Radio Reports Antigovernment Statement

JN2808162790 (Clandestine) Holy Mecca Radio in Arabic 1424 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Our kinfolk in the Hejaz, Najd, and the Arabian Peninsula: Through your demonstrations and resistance against the U.S. occupation forces, you have given your Arab brothers [words indistinct] an ideal example of how to confront occupation. The intelligence organs of agent Fahd, the betrayer of the two holy mosques, have arrested several heads of Bani-Qahtan, Rabi'ah, Alma', Rafidah, and Khash'am tribes. They were taken to Rub' al-Khali, which was turned into a large prison.

The arrests came after the distribution of a statement in the 'Asir region (?condemning) the rulers of Najd and the Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], who allowed the imperialist U.S. forces to desecrate the holy lands. The statement denounced the treacherous positions of the Najd and Hejaz ruler, who sold out the country and the people to the enemies of Islam—the Americans and the British—and turned the Saudi cities into Israeli-American settlements. The statement stressed that no one now has a religious excuse to maintain confidence in those corrupt people who are plotting against the Islamic sanctities.

From the beginning, our people in Najd and the Hejaz have rejected the anti-Arab policies pursued by traitor Fahd, servant of the crusaders, and his conspiracies against fraternal Iraq. They also rejected agent Fahd's bringing of American and Israeli forces to perpetrate aggression against the Arab nation, control its resources, steal its wealth, and desecrate its sanctities. Our people know that the cowardly reaction by agent Fahd and his foreign supporters will be acts of murder and arrest against the angry masses.

The enemies of the people and the Arab-Islamic nation may think that these criminal methods can deter our people from confronting and resisting the occupation. But they will be disappointed. The Arab revolution in Najd and the Hejaz is still at its beginning, and our people are still preparing for a long, heroic struggle. Our land will be converted into a graveyard for foreign occupiers and for those who plotted with the foreigners against the people, the nation, and the holy places.

UK Defense Secretary Arrives, Receives Briefing

LD2808112190 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1052 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Report by Charles Miller, Press Association defense reporter, in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia]

[Excerpt] Defence Secretary Tom King arrived in Saudi Arabia today and was given a top secret briefing which advised him that an immediate war with Iraq was unlikely. In the "war room" deep in the bowels of the Dhahran headquarters, Mr King was told that the rapid

build-up of British and American forces had made an Iraqi invasion much more difficult. "I hope that's right," he said later.

Mr King, beginning a three-day visit to the Gulf, met senior military commanders and Britain's front-line tornado fighter aircraft crews who fly regular patrols close to the Kuwait border from their base at Dhahran in north-eastern Saudi Arabia.

He said: "Our first action was to get here as quickly as we could and reinforce the Saudi defensive shield. We were determined to see no further aggression could succeed and I believe that is being achieved now. To seek to proceed beyond Kuwait would now be a very, very dangerous undertaking, a very foolish one indeed for Saddam Husayn." [passage omitted]

Confers With King Fahd

LD2808153190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1455 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 28 Aug (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, may God protect him, received in his office today in al-Salam Palace His Excellency the British defense secretary, Tom King, and the delegation accompanying him. [passage omitted]

Meets With Counterpart

LD2808155190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1520 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Jeddah, 28 Aug (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, received in his palace in Jeddah this afternoon British Secretary of State for Defence Mr. Tom King, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy minister of defence and aviation and deputy inspector general.

The current situation in the region was discussed during the meeting. Relations between the two countries were also reviewed.

Tours Dhahran Air Base

LD2808181690 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1713 GMT 28 Aug 90

[By John Ingham, of the DAILY EXPRESS, in a pooled despatch from Saudi Arabia]

[Excerpts] Defence Secretary Tom King flew into Saudi Arabia today with a simple message for Saddam Husayn: "We are ready for you at any time."

And as he started a three-day tour to inspect the Gulf forces, there was growing optimism from his military commanders that the Iraqi dictator had been thwarted in his plans to invade any more territory.

Mr. King, who will tour British bases and discuss further deployment with Gulf leaders, said he was "encouraged" by the high morale among the forces.

However, while warning that Britain had not ruled out any military option, he guarded against complacency about the Iraqi troops in Kuwait.

Asked if they were a shambles, he said: "I think there is no question that description might have fitted some elements that come to Kuwait.

"But we are under no illusions. There are other elements who are very dangerous and we need to ensure we have an effective defence." He refused to comment on whether he was planning to send more forces—an option being reviewed by a Ministry of Defence team in the region.

Mr. King dropped in on the massive Saudi airbase of Dhahran, 200 miles from the Iraqi front line, on the first leg of a tour of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Oman.

The 800 British servicemen in Dhahran—the new home from home for 12 RAF [Royal Air Force] Tornado fighters—warned Iraqi tyrant Saddam Husayn: "We are in great shape to move at a moment's notice." [passage omitted]

The overall commander of Britain's bombers and fighters in the Gulf, Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrict Hine, echoed the confidence rippling through the massive allied bridgehead.

On a flying visit from strike command's underground HQ at RAF High Wycombe, he said: "I think on August 3 or 4 it was quite possible that Saddam could have carried on straight down the eastern road to the oilfields of Saudi Arabia.

"But the very prompt response of the Americans and to a lesser extent ourselves, and the pace of the build-up over the last fortnight has made it very difficult for him.

"We now have sufficient forces on the ground and particularly air forces to make that sort of operation very hazardous for him." [passage omitted]

Departs Jeddah

LD2808180390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1657 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Jeddah, 28 aug (SPA)—The British secretary of state for defense, Mr. Tom King, and the delegation accompanying him left Jeddah this afternoon.

He was seen off at the King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport in Jeddah by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-'Abd-'Aziz, the deputy minister of defense and aviation and deputy inspector general; the commander of the western region, Flight Lieutenant General Salih al-Sudays; the commander of the Air Force, Flight Lieutenant General al-Buhayri; the commander of the King Faysal Naval Base in the western region, Staff Commodore Muhammad al-'Ijlan; the acting commander of the Institute of the Air Defence

Forces, Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Ghaffar Qadi; and the British ambassador to the Kingdom, Mr. Alan Munro.

Fahd Receives Message From Senegalese President

LD2708173490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1709 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Jeddah, 27 Aug (SPA)—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-Aziz al Sa'ud has received a message from the Senegalese President, Badou Diouf. The message was delivered to the custodian of the two holy mosques by Osman Tanur Jang, the Senegalese President's personal envoy, when the king received him at his office in the al-Salam palace today. The meeting was attended by the minister of state and member of the cabinet, Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, and Senegal's ambasador to the Kingdom, Alhaji Amadou Thiam.

The Senegalese official arrived in Jeddah last night.

United Arab Emirates

Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives 25 Aug

JN2608193790 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived in the country this morning on a visit to the state. He was received by His Excellency Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; a number of officials; and the Pakistani ambassador to the state.

Egyptian Visitors Discuss Military Cooperation

NC2808124490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1146 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Aug (MENA)—Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], today met with Staff Maj. Gen. Muhammad Wahdan, assistant chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces, and his accompanying delegation. Wahdan is currently visiting the UAE at the head of a military delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed aspects of military cooperation between Egypt and the UAE.

President Receives King Husayn's Message

NC2808140490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1147 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a message from Jordanian monarch King Husayn dealing with the developments in the Gulf region. The message was conveyed by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, during a meeting with His Highness Shaykh Zayid here today.

President Receives Message From Yemen's Salih

NC2808180690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1315 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Eimrates [UAE], has recieved a message from Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the latest developments in the region. Yemeni Industry Minister [title as received] Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar conveyed the message to the UAE president during a meeting here today.

Yemen

British Consul General Expelled From Aden

JN2508151690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] In Aden, a Yemeni Government spokesman has stated that his government has decided to expel the British consul-general after he was caught photographing the military installations and the oil refinery near Bab el-Mandeb from a nearby hill. The spokesman said that Consul-General (Goyan) has been given 48 hours to leave the country.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has said that Yemen does not respect the blockade imposed on Iraq and that an Iraqi oil tanker unloaded its cargo in Aden early this week. Yemen today denied reports that Iraqi airplanes had landed in Sanaa to transport foodstuffs to Baghdad. The spokesman added that his country respects the resolution of international legitimacy in imposing a blockade, including the economic blockade.

Foreign Minister Denies Iraqi Warplanes Present

JN2208150190 Paris AL-YAWM AL-SABI' in Arabic 20 Aug 90 p 23

[Text] The Republic of Yemen has denied the presence of Iraqi warplanes on its territory. In a conversation AL-YAWM AL-SABI' held with him from Paris, Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani said that Sanaa has not broken off contacts with Iraq, and that it is not a party to the continuing dangerous game in the Gulf.

Since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, Yemen has taken a position stressing Arab mediation to resolve the crisis. Moreover, Yemeni delegations visited the parties of the dispute to find a solution that would exclude the atrocities of foreign intervention, out of the Yemenis' belief that the causes of what has happened are basically Arab; that the results of what has happened will primarily affect the Arab world and the Gulf region; and that the dispute must be settled within the Arab context.

Proceeding from this position, officials in Sanaa started conducting worldwide contacts, among which were contacts made by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih with U.S.

President George Bush and French President Francois Mitterrand, in order to elucidate the Yemeni viewpoint and to explain the dangers that might result from foreign intervention in the region.

However, later developments in the crisis, the landing of U.S. forces in the Gulf, and subsequent events, have taken the conflict in a different direction out of its direct Arab arena.

Within this context, some Western media have included Yemen as a direct party to the conflict, and attributed some information to the White House, to the effect that President George Bush warned President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the presence of Iraqi warplanes in Yemen, which could take action against U.S. forces if military conflict were sparked off in the Gulf.

On the possibility of the presence of these forces in Yemen, a responsible Yemeni source has told AL-YAWM AL-SABI' that there are no Iraqi warplanes on Yemeni territory. The Yemeni source said his country had been aware of the intentions of some parties to spread this and similar reports, and that it had warned them. The source said, moreover, that the United States knows exactly that such reports are unfounded.

In another contact between AL-YAWM AL-SABI' and Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, the Yemeni minister denied his country had any connection with the "continuing game in the Gulf," adding that Sanaa has never played with fire, and will never do so.

Asked why his country abstained from the vote on Arab resolutions at the recent summit at the Arab foreign minister's council, 'Abd- al-Karim al-Iryani said that Yemen has sought mediation, and presumed that the Arab role should be one of mediation; therefore, he added, the Arabs should not adopt a condemnatory position of any party to the conflict, because mediation and condemnation are irreconcilable.

Al-Iryani reaffirmed his country's position on the current crisis. He said that Sanaa opposes any foreign intervention in the region, because such intervention will make the Arabs lose control of their affairs and will further complicate the resolution these issues. For when the conflict is internationalized, its solutions will become international and not Arab.

Asked whether Sanaa is still in contact with Iraq, al-Iryani said his country has not broken off its contacts with any Arab country, and that it is not in the habit of breaking off contacts with any Arab country unless this country adopts a policy hostile to Yemen.

Answering a question on President Saddam Husayn's initiative, which calls for simultaneous evacuation of occupations in the Middle East, al-Iryani said: "Saddam Husayn's initiative to end all problems is all-inclusive, and it is the best solution to the current crisis in the Gulf."

Asked whether Sanaa will abide by the embargo resolution imposed by the United Nations on Iraq, al-Iryani said these resolutions are so far, voluntary. Sarcastically, al-Iryani wondered, "what are the sanctions that we should impose on Iraq. We buy Iraqi dates in the month of Ramadan, do you want us to boycott Iraq's dates...?"

'Arafat Arrives in Sanaa, Makes Statement

JN2808132190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, arrived in Sanaa at dawn today on a visit to our country. In a statement to SABA', 'Arafat said his visit is designed to pursue the Arab effort to achieve a collective Arab position and to confront the dangers and challenges threatening our Arab nation. He said he is also here to discuss the Gulf crisis and the importance of making every effort to reach an Arab solution to guarantee our Arab nation's future, its security, and the rights of its masses.

Upon arrival, 'Arafat was received by Dr. Ahmad al-Asbahi, Advisory Council president and Standing Committee secretary, a presidential protocol official, Palestinian Ambassador brother Yahya Rabah, and the commander of Sabra camp in Sanaa—brother Wahid, and other officials.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Moscow With Message

JN2808183790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani left for Moscow this evening on a visit to the Soviet capital within the framework of efforts by our country to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully. In a statement to SABA', Dr. al-Iryani said he will convey a message from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to the Soviet leadership on the distinguished relations between our country and the USSR. He noted that he will discuss with his Soviet counterpart the tense situation in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula as well as the ways to end that tension peacefully and to stop the opportunities of those who are trying to set the region on fire to achieve their hidden objectives.

Saddam Husayn Speaks to Foreign Families 28 Aug

JN2808200190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1805 GMT 28 Aug 90

["Full recording" of remarks by President Saddam Husayn during a meeting with "foreign families hosted by the Iraqi people this morning"—place not given]

[Text] I have been told that we have a birthday today. Happy birthday, Rachel. Sometimes even unpleasant coincidences open chances for friendship and pleasant results. [passage indistinct] If my family were in your place, then I would have the same feeling. However, politicians are forced sometimes to look at things in a manner that is beyond what can be seen directly. For example, if it were to do with human feelings [words indistinct], I would have immediately said that you should leave. However, when we view matters through a wider perspective involving a much greater number of people and their destinies, be they foreigners or Iraqis; if a military conflagration takes place, God forbid, between Iraq and the Armies brought by the United States and its allies; if we visualize the losses that will result from such a conflagration, if it were to happen; and if we view your presence here as guests of Iraq at a certain time as something that may prevent such a conflagration, or that this presence may contribute toward preventing such a conflagration, then we would find ourselves in such a situation in which we are compelled to make the decision we have made. This means that a number of foreigners have been kept to prevent the death of many more foreigners. Of course, if war were to erupt, many Iraqis will also die, or, the way we look at it, will fall as martyrs, if war were to take place, because they would be defending their homeland, their own existence, and their holy places. As you know, the economic and scientific installations in Iraq operate round the clock and workers are accommodated within the same scientific and economic installations. If war erupts, these installations will be the target of this war, as clearly stated by some Western officials and by the Western media. Therefore, we expect that a large number of pretty Iraqi children, just like yours, would perish if these installations are attacked. Among the most important things that we should take into consideration is the inhuman act that the president of the United States has committed. It is he and his administration that should be asked why they have come to this area. Initially, they said they are coming to the area to defend Saudi Arabia.

Once the weakness of this pretext had been discovered, they began saying that they came to defend oil. I think that each and every one of you know—and you have lived in the region—that the people of the region do not intend to keep the oil in their pockets; they want to sell it to the United States, Japan, and Europe. The revenues from oil would be used in development, and Western and Japanese companies in general are the ones that help carry out development projects, whether in Iraq or other places. So the oil would be sold to the West, and the revenues from oil will be used in projects in the region executed by Western companies. The claim of defending oil, therefore, is groundless.

The question should be posed to the U.S. Administration: Why do you want to embroil the world and yourselves—the American people—in a war that, by all standards and by the simplest scenarios, will not be an easy war? You know, and I think that the politicians in your country know, that we do not beg the sympathy of anybody. We respect the views of people. When we go out of our way and open a dialogue with you—and you are ordinary citizens—it is not because we want to beg sympathy from your governments. We want to express our respect for the human being. God almighty taught us that there is no difference between whites and blacks, Westerners and Easterners, Arabs and non-Arabs except in the manner in which they worship God.

The most difficult thing is to punish someone for doing something he did not know was prohibited. The war, if it erupts, will be a kind of severe punishment to people. As the Iraqis and the Arabs lose sons, women, and children, the aggressive parties will also lose men, children, and women. By this I mean the attackers and their allies.

If the United States attacks installations, and the installations have children, women, and civilians accommodated inside them, they would be killed. The weaponry owned by Iraq might not be capable of reaching the United States, but it can reach its allies. When Iraq attacks installations and factories in cities, it is expected that children, women, men, and civilians inside the installations will also die, in addition to the soldiers who will die on the front in Iraq. This is of course in addition to the destruction in all aspects of life.

When we face such a possibility—not an easy possibility—would it not be a (?shame) to enter into dialogue with peoples concerned about the outcome of such action, especially after we have found many voices demanding [words indistinct] the concerned administrations. When I conduct such a dialogue with you, we find ourselves in the position [words indistinct] British, first because we respect the human being, and second, because we depend on dialogue to convey to the people the actual facts as they are and not as the deeply involved parties wish to portray them to their people.

After the last meeting, we read the criticisms directed at us by some British politicians. They were very upset at the meeting. I do not see why they are so upset. It seems that they were upset because they do not want the British people to learn facts from sources other than the British channels, which have become involved in faulty estimates; they even played a role in involving the U.S. Administration; in addition to the roles played by some of those called the allies of the United States in the region. Their estimates were extremely dangerous and mistaken. Consequently, they have pushed events to the point that they are affecting you.

Some Western politicians say that Iraq's measures are inhuman. I would agree with them that these measures are inhuman, had we had other options with which we could prevent the scourge of war.

I also agree that it would be inhuman if the objective is inhuman. If it is merely revenge or aimed at causing harm it will be inhuman. But it is hosting under difficult circumstances—and I know it is under difficult circumstances; it is one of the factors to prevent war. Therefore, it should have another description.

For the sake of comparison even in this narrow field, in the wake of our measure some Western states held Iraqis in order to keep them. Just because a number of their nationals were held or hosted a number of Iraqis were held. What will the situation be if what is taking place against Iraq is an attempt to invade Iraq, not just holding a number of Iraqi citizens? What if the situation is reversed? If Iraq wants to invade Paris, Washington, or London can we imagine the measures that would be taken by these states? They forgot all that they have been saying about democracy and freedom when they learned that some of their nationals are not allowed to travel outside Iraq; they held the Iraqi nationals who are in their states.

Despite these details, some of which might be wrong, the question should be addressed to the people who brought their fleets, air bases, and armies: Why have you come to invade Iraq? Why have you excluded the opportunity of an Arab solution and holding a dialogue to reach a political solution that will achieve tranquility in the region away from war?

Now, I will try to answer your questions and anything related to your situation. We may think of dispatching some of you to carry a message of peace to your Western governments in which you address the direct question: Why have you come to the region as invaders although your legitimate interests are guaranteed in accordance with all criteria—present and past. Those of you who will undertake this mission will be heroes of peace contrary to those who seek heroism through reckless adventure from which they will only harvest disappointment and loss.

The lecture is heavy, particularly on the children who do not understand politics. I am ready to answer your questions, suggestions, and needs.

Orders British Family Released

JN2808155490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn visited foreign families hosted by the Iraqi people this morning in order to reassure himself about their condition and to become acquainted with their needs.

During the visit, he listened to their questions and inquiries and ordered that they be given whatever they need to secure appropriate and comfortable circumstances for them—circumstances that are in accord with the traditions of Arab hospitality that the Iraqis abide by.

President Saddam Husayn ordered that a British family be allowed to return home as a goodwill gesture on the part of his excellency on the occasion of the family's celebration of their child Rachel's birthday,

The family expressed its great gratitude and appreciation for this generous gesture from his excellency, which came as the most beautiful birthday gift for their daughter.

The meeting was attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

Foreign Women, Children Free To Leave 29 Aug

JN2808203090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—This came in a statement by the spokesman for the Revolution Command Council [RCC]. The following is the text of the statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

A spokesman for the RCC has stated the following: Following His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's meeting with some of the families of foreign nationals this morning; after looking into their conditions and those of the other families of foreign nationals who are banned from traveling outside Iraq; moved by the desire that some women have expressed in regaining the freedom of movement and travel—although the objective for which the foreigners had been banned from traveling is a humanitarian objective based on the desire to check the fever of war of those who seek it—and, so as to maintain the Arabs' records as pure as possible in terms of humanitarain meanings as has been the case so far, and as I want it to be through the march of the Arab mujahidin and strugglers and the revolutionaries and mujahidin in Iraq; and after the telephone conversation with the speaker of the National Assembly, President Saddam Husayn has ordered that foreign children and women in Iraq would enjoy the freedom to stay in Iraq, travel, or (?return home) as of tomorrow, 29 August 1990, corresponding to 8 Safar, 1411 Hegirah. This includes the families the National Assembly had decided to host in Iraq for reasons explained at the time.

Paper Calls Foreigners 'Heroes of Peace'

JN2808105090 Baghdad INA in English 1015 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 28, INA—THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER daily said foreigners being hosted in Iraq are meant to be heroes of peace. They are not intended as tools to blackmail anybody but to contribute to the cause of peace which Bush and his allies seem to have little or no regard to.

President Bush, Margaret Thatcher and Douglas Hurd's remarks about them have apprently failed to bring about

the desired reaction. The world public opinion is showing more and more understanding to Iraq's attitude towards guest foreigners.

Following the departure of Austrian nationals to their homeland, scores of foreigners including Austrians, Swiss, Germans and others voluntarily offered to come to Iraq to act as heroes of peace. This could well be among the things that took Bush and Thatcher by surprise. The longer the American warmongering lingers, the more surprises are likely to emerge.

U.S. Diplomats Reportedly To Be Expelled

JN2808193390 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1920 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] We just learned that Iraq has announced a few minutes ago that it will expel U.S. diplomats from Baghdad. U.S. State Department said the U.S. charge d'affaires in Baghdad was notified of the Iraqi decision. Iraq did not specify how many will be expelled.

Saddam Ready for 'Debate' With Bush, Thatcher

JN2808190090 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1720 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has declared his readiness to open a dialogue with U.S. President Bush and British Prime Minister Mrs. Thatcher in a televised debate so that the world can learn the facts about the dispute in the region. This came during a visit he made to a number of families hosted by Iraq.

[Begin Saddam Husayn recording] So for my part, as being in authority in Iraq, I am ready for a direct, immediate dialogue with Mr. Bush and Mrs. Thatcher. If they wish, so that the public opinion can learn the logic of the concerned parties so as to be able to pass fair judgments, let the debate between them and myself be televised in front of world public opinion as a whole. Therefore, Iraq, for its part, is not responsible for holding anybody, or responsible for any intention to kill anybody. But Iraq found itself in a forced situation. Iraq believed that among those ways of preventing war was not allowing you to travel abroad until further notice. [end recording]

Editor Comments on U.S. Commander's Statements

JN2708213190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2107 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA)—The INA international affairs editor has said that statements made by John Hopkins, commander of U.S. forces in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], clearly show his concern and fear about the use of chemical weapons. He added that Iraq has not yet threatened to use them and has not said that we will start the war but that both the brave Iraqi Army and all Iraqis will be lying in wait for anyone who commits aggression against our territory and people.

He added that Iraq will always remain a messenger of peace but will not remain silent over any aggression. Hopkins and others will know how much the Iraqis adhere to their rights and categorically reject the foreigners' presence in the region and their evil intentions, which have desecrated the land of Najd and Hejaz, Mecca, and al-Madinah with the help of the traitor of the two holy mosques.

Paper Criticizes Mitterrand's 'Contradiction'

JN2908100990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has expressed its astonishment at the contradiction in the French president's logic of force and law regarding colonialism and the peoples' restoration of their usurped rights.

In a commentary today, the paper said Francois Mitterrand did not remember the issue of force and law until yesterday. Before this, he had nothing to remind him of them, especially concerning the United States, Israel, Britain, or France itself.

The paper reminds Mitterrand of the invasions of Panama, Grenada, and Liberia; the Zionist occupation of Palestine; Britain's hegemony over the Falklands of Argentina; and France's preservation of several islands in the world and of African areas. The paper says: Mitterrand is talking about the might-is-right law that allows all of the aforementioned to perpetrate all kinds of crimes, and despite this, to claim to be faithful to the law.

AL-JUMHURIYAH continues to assess the French president's logic of law and force, saying: He speaks of that law that gave his predecessor Guy Mollet and to Anthony Eden and Ben-Gurion the right to invade Egypt and consider Algeria part of France.

The paper compares the practices of the colonialists—which Mitterrand and his partner ignored, although they are examples of slavery, hegemony, and usurpation—and Kuwait's return to its people and origin in Iraq. It says: The difference between us and them is that we have regained part of our homeland, which they severed in the past.

The paper addresses Mitterrand, saying: The peoples who struggle for their rights are not committed to a law whose advocates prevent them from restoring their rights; otherwise, Algeria would have continued to be part of France.

Syrians Reportedly 'Boiling With Anger' at U.S.

JN2808110790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1049 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Arrivals from Syria have said that Syrian citizens in all Syrian cities are boiling with anger at the U.S.-Zionist violation of Islamic sanctities. These arrivals

said the Syrian citizens are speaking loudly and bravely in praise of the heroic stand of Iraq and President Saddam Husayn.

Some citizens said that a number of Syrian officers have said that if any battle breaks out against Iraq, they will not hesitate to attack the U.S. forces, even if it costs them their lives. It has been reported that these officers said that this is their opportunity to take revenge on the center of plotting and corruption against the Arabs—namely, the United States and its forces.

Philippine Foreign Minister Arrives in Baghdad

JN2808164790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1628 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus arrived in Baghdad this evening heading a delegation on a visit to Iraq that will last a number of days.

In a statement to INA, the Philippine foreign minister said that during his visit to Iraq, he will hold talks with Iraqi officials on relations between the two countries.

On hand to receive him at the airport were Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nizar Hamdun and the Philippine ambassador in Baghdad.

Ministry Says All Troops Out of Iran by 21 Aug

JN2808121290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—The Foreign Ministry has stressed that the Iraqi Armed Forces completed their full withdrawal from Iranian territory last Tuesday [21 August].

Responding to the slander of some media circles, a spokesman for the ministry said that Iraq completed its full withdrawal into Iraqi territory on 21 August and that Iraq now has no troops at all in Iranian territories.

The spokesman pointed out that Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, informed the UN secretary general in an official memorandum last Thursday that Iraqi forces completed their full withdrawal from the Iranian territories.

Some media circles have carried distorted and fabricated reports to the effect that the Iraqi forces are still occupying several pockets in the Iranian territories.

Committee Formed for Iraq-Iran POW Exchange

JN2808165390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1632 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that Iraq and Iran have formed a joint technical committee with the participation of the International Red Cross to organize and increase the exchange of prisoners between Iraq and Iran.

Iraq has already exchanged 17,000 prisoners with Iran during the past few days.

More Exchanged 28 Aug

JN2908074090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0540 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—The 15th batch of the Iraqi prisoners of war arrived in the homeland overland last night. [passage omitted]

A new batch of Iranian prisoners, which Iraq decided to release in accordance with President Saddam Husayn's letter to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 15 August, was also delivered last night.

Arens, Generals Brief Cabinet 26 Aug on Gulf

TA2608181590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens, the chief of staff, and the head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, today appeared before the cabinet at its weekly session and briefed the ministers on recent developments in the Gulf crisis. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports:

Minister Arens, Chief of Staff Shomron, and Major General Shahaq briefed the ministers on the reinforcement of the Iraqi forces in Kuwait. The divisions belonging to the Republican Guard are now stationed in the northern part of the occupied country, leaving Saddam Husayn the option of either bringing them back into Iraq, or moving them further into Kuwait. There are no Republican Guard forces, it has been learned, along the border with Saudi Arabia. On the other hand, Iraq has beefed up its forces along the border with Turkey. The Iraqi threat to sink any warships that attack Iraqi vessels is understood to mean that the Iraqi reaction will be limited at this stage, and focused on specific targets. There is no threat of an Iraqi attack on Saudi Arabia at the present time. Saudi Arabia, for its part, is extending financial assistance to its two allies in the Arab world: Syria and Egypt. Jordan, on the other hand, is cooperating with Iraq on various issues. And beyond all this, the matter of most significance is the continuing deployment of U.S. forces in the Gulf area. Nevertheless, in spite of the gathering storm clouds, which are refusing to dissipate, the ministers could this morning note with satisfaction that among Israeli-Arabs Saddam Husayn's allure has been dulled. That at least was what was reported at today's cabinet session.

Shamir Denies 'Pushing' U.S. To Attack Iraq

TA2808135690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has categorically rejected what he termed the ugly allegations voiced in the United States that Israel is pressing Washington to attack Iraq. However, in reply to a question on whether he would like the crisis to be settled through diplomatic means, the prime minister said: I have not said that; we are, however, neither pushing the United States toward any solution, nor giving it advice.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the prime minister was addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Mr. Shamir did not rule out the possibility that if the situation changes, two Alignment members will be added to the cabinet, just as [Herut Members] Yosef Sapir and Menahem Begin had been included in the cabinet on the eve of the Six-Day War.

The prime minister also said that we are concerned about the sale of advanced weapons to Arab countries that maintain no ties with Israel. He noted that such weapons were sold to Kuwait some time ago and they are now in Iraqi hands.

[In a related report, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1330 GMT on 28 August adds that Shamir advised the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that "about 16,000 immigrants arrived in Israel in August and that a total of 80,000 Jews arrived from the Soviet Union this year." "Shamir noted that at this rate, 290,000 Jews will receive exit visas by the end of 1990. The prime minister expressed the hope that in the wake of the Gulf crisis, the Soviet Union will revise its foreign policy; such a step may be to Israel's advantage."]

Shamir Says Saddam Faces 'Jewish Iron Wall'

TA2908074590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Report by 'Ido Shargil on remarks by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at the Knesset ceremony for Zionist leader Ze'ev Jabotinsky on the 50th anniversary of his death; on 28 August in Jerusalem]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Begin Shamir recording] Those who now also try to threaten Israel by spreading lies and distortions because of hatred for the Jewish people surely know that there is a Jewish iron wall facing the madman of Baghdad's iron fist, as well as a strong and skilled security system, which will know how to deter and, if needed, to push away anybody attacking the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. [end recording]

The best way to deal with issues on the agenda is through cool-headedness, reason, and the deep belief in the justness of the cause, Mr. Shamir said. But, whoever tests Israel over the Iraqi threat will reach the conclusion that we are acting out of concern for the State of Israel and the well-being of its citizens. [passage omitted]

Shamir on PLO, USSR, Arms Sales to Saudis

TA2908055990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Shamir says he believes the PLO's support of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in the Gulf crisis has not only hurt its credibility in the West but also in the Soviet Union. The prime minister told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that the Soviets are revising their policies, and he is hopeful it will be in Israel's favor. More from reporter David Ze'ev:

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says the PLO's credibility has suffered everywhere: here in Israel, in the Arab world, most notably with the sharp comments this week by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak against PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, and even in the Soviet Union. Prime Minister Shamir told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the widespread support of Saddam Husayn by the Palestinian population in the

territories shows how dangerous it would be to allow Arab sovereignty over Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. In Moscow, Shamir said, there is a split over what direction the government's policy should take toward the Arab world, but the prime minister said he is optimistic that the changes will be in Israel's favor. Shamir said the binational relations between Moscow and Jerusalem will move yet another step forward next month, when Israeli and Soviet experts will meet to discuss the situation in the Middle East and the arms race. [passage omitted]

The prime minister seemed to be less worried about the Soviet Union than he is over the American arms sales to countries helping the Gulf effort, among them Saudi Arabia. Shamir told the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the Saudis are getting new F- 15's, more sophisticated than those in Israel's possession. Israel, in its messages to the American Administration since the Gulf crisis began, has asked for U.S. guarantees that Israel will maintain its superiority in the region. What worries Israeli officials is what the region will look like militarily when the crisis is over. Shamir says that aside from Iraq, there are other Arab countries with non-conventional weapons to threaten Israel, though the prime minister did not elaborate which countries they were.

Arens Reviews Situation in Gulf, Defense Needs

TA2808132990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Saddam Husayn is in dire trouble and is very tense. I hope the great siege and the fact that the entire world is against him will make him surrender. Those remarks were made by Defense Minister Moshe Arens a short while ago.

Minister Arens added that, in his opinion, the Americans have made good use of the waiting time to organize and prepare their troops in the Gulf. He does not believe the waiting was a mistake.

Minister Arens thinks the Americans will respond enthusiastically to Israel's procurement requests. Israel is also preparing for what it hopes will not happen: the possibility that it will somehow find itself involved in the Gulf crisis. Although not involved in the international deployment against Iraq, Israel is preparing for the possibility of being attacked and is drawing up a list of the equipment it needs and wishes to purchase, said Minister Arens.

During a visit to an Air Force base in central Israel, the defense minister said he is sorry every Israeli could not accompany him on his visit to the base, where they could witness the IDF's [Israeli Defense Forces] great strength. Minister Arens' remarks were reported by our correspondent Amir Fink.

Official Links Saudi Arms Sales, Compensation

TA2908104390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Aug 90 p 1, 6

[Report by David Makovsky and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpt] Israel faces a dilemma in deciding whether to actively oppose U.S. arms sales to Saudi Arabia, but there are indications that if Israel is properly compensated, it will not fight the move.

Yosi Ben-Aharon, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, told THE JERUSALEM POST last night, "We oppose sales of weaponry to states that are not at peace with us. Whether we should oppose the sale actively is a tactical issue. In the event that the United States feels such sales constitute a vital American interest, we would expect, at least, to be compensated." [passage omitted]

Weapons Sought 'To Compensate' for Arms to Arabs

TA2808113790 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Aug 90 p 4

[Report by Shmu'el Tal]

[Text] The defense establishment will soon present the Americans with a list of requests to compensate and close the gaps following the flow of sophisticated U.S. military hardware into Saudi Arabia and Egypt because of the Gulf crisis.

Israel will seek to lease Patriot antiaircraft missile batteries, considered the most advanced of their type; as well as the most modern combat aircraft like the ones supplied to Saudi Arabia; and also various helicopters, mainly assault helicopters.

Israel will make it plain to the Americans that the missiles, costing approximately $80 million per battery, are necessary to ease the burden of air defense, especially in the face of Iraqi threats. Israel claims that it can defray the leasing costs, but not the purchasing costs.

The United States will likewise be asked to consider greater military assistance to Israel beyond the current annual rate of $1.8 billion. Here, difficulties are to be expected, as activity in the Gulf over the past few weeks has already required moneys in excess of the U.S. defense budget and has increased the deficit.

Reduction in Defense Budget To Be Canceled

TA2508191990 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] The government will cancel the 80 million shekel cut in the defense budget in the wake of the Gulf crisis and the unexpected expenditures forced on the defense establishment, army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports. He said the Gulf crisis has resulted in increased expenditures in several fields. In fact, it means a large increase in the defense budget to make up for cuts over previous years.

Shamir, Bush 'Likely' To Meet in New York

TA2808113490 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Aug 90 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir may meet with U.S. President George Bush during his planned visit to New York next month.

The prime minister's bureau confirmed last night that Shamir accepted UNICEF's invitation to participate in the "Children's Summit," scheduled to take place in New York at the end of September. Some 60 heads of state have already confirmed their participation in the conference, including President Bush, USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, and French President Mitterrand.

Political sources in Jerusalem have reported that the chances for a Shamir-Bush meeting, as well as meetings with other statesmen, in the course of the convention were "most likely."

Foreign Minister David Levi will also be in New York at the same time, heading the Israeli delegation to the UN General Assembly meeting, so that parallel heads of state and foreign minister meetings can be expected. Government sources reported last night that another five ministers are scheduled to be in New York and Washington at the end of next month.

Sources in the prime minister's bureau have reported that coordination work to plan Shamir's meetings has not yet begun and that the visit itself is conditional upon developments in the Gulf crisis.

According to the schedule for the special UN conference, every head of state will deliver a brief address, so that most of the time can be devoted to bilateral meetings.

Levi to U.S., To Confer With Baker Next Week

TA2808201990 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi will begin his visit to the United States next Tuesday [4 August]. Two days after his arrival he will confer with Secretary of State James Baker.

Netanyahu Urges Creation of 'New Order' in Region

TA2908103290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said that after the current Gulf crisis is solved there will be a need to create a new order in the Middle East. Israel hopes that the United States will exploit its growing influence in order to persuade the Arab countries which support it to form an alliance with Israel against future aggression by the tyrannical regimes of the Arab extremists. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the deputy foreign minister made the remarks in a meeting with U.S. Congressman Edward Markey. [passage omitted]

Abu-'Ayyash Banned From Traveling to Moscow

TA2908083290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] The Civil Administration has banned Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, the chairman of the Arab Journalists' Association in the Territories and one of the leading figures in Judaea and Samaria, from leaving for Moscow. He was summoned to the Civil Administration offices in Ramallah yesterday and was told that his request to go to Moscow to participate in a conference organized by IZVESTIYA would not be granted.

Security forces have over the past two weeks banned some 10 activists from the territories from going abroad for various purposes, including participation in international gatherings.

Report in Error

TA2908112390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] The West Bank Civil Administration will not prohibit Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, the chairman of the Arab Journalists Association in Judaea and Samaria, from leaving for Moscow. It was earlier reported that his departure was banned, but it later transpired that the announcement was wrong and that Abu-'Ayyash was told he could go. Abu-'Ayyash told our correspondent that he would leave for Moscow early next week to participate in a journalists' conference.

Travel Restricted for Arab Politician, Editor

TA2408130390 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Aug 90 p 2

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Arye Der'i yesterday issued an order, in accordance with the 1948 emergency regulations, forbidding Raja Aghbariyah, secretary of the Sons of the Village Movement, from Umm-al-Fahm, and 'Awwad 'Abd-al-Fatah, the editor-in-chief of AL-MAYDAN [RACE COURSE], which is the organ of the Sons of the Village Movement published in Nazareth, from leaving the country. The two men were served with a police order stating that their travel abroad would constitute a danger to state security. [passage omitted]

Al-Tibi Banned From Travel for Two Months

TA2808104390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The interior minister has banned Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi from leaving the country for two months, asserting that there are serious grounds for concern that his travel abroad could constitute a danger to state security. Knesset Member Mordekhay Virshuvsky from the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] demands that the

prime minister and the interior minister revoke the ban, as al-Tibi is an Israeli citizen and the ban is thus undemocratic and in contravention of his basic civil rights.

Jerusalem Mufti Says U.S. Policy Imperialist

TA2808153690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Shaykh Sa'd al-Din al-'Alami, chairman of the Supreme Muslim Council in East Jerusalem, has sent a letter to U.S. President George Bush in which he writes that President's aggression has turned all Muslims into his enemies and the enemies of the United States. The mufti of Jerusalem goes on to say that the U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia is imperialist and aims at taking over the Islamic holy sites.

Conflicting Reports of Arab Views on Iraq, PLO

TA2808114590

[Editorial report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 28 August, in a report by Matthew Seriphs and Jon Immanuel on page 10, writes that "two demonstrations were reportedly held in Nabulus yesterday in support of Iraq. The first, by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], with 50 marchers, was followed by another rally with 300 people marching in support of Yasir 'Arafat and Saddam Husayn, local sources said."

Oren Kohen, writing on page 6 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 28 August, says that "supporters of Nayif Hawatimah's PFLP yesterday held a pro-Saddam rally. In so doing, the PFLP joined all the other PLO factions in supporting Iraq.

"Sympathizers of the Palestinian Communist Party, which usually embraces a moderate line, also expressed support for Saddam's policy yesterday. The Communist Party and the Unified National Command of the Uprising in the Tulkarm area issued a joint communique which lambastes 'American imperialism.'

"The unanimity among the PLO and the Palestinians in the territories on this matter indicates a common interest and joint aspirations. The dramatic decline in the PLO's stature all over the world, including the Arab world, has not tarnished its status in the territories."

Kohen later adds that "Since 1980, when Kuwait first began passing legislation and other regulations restricting the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians residing and working there, there has been a buildup of anger with Kuwait among these Palestinians, many of whom have relatives in the territories. They claim that they are being treated as second-class citizens. This, in addition to the drop in financial support for the PLO, can perhaps explain the crisis in relations with Kuwait.

"Yasir 'Arafat's blemished image has nonetheless not been complemented by similar sentiments in the territories. It seems that the feeling of frustration over the failure of the intifadah is bringing the Palestinians closer together. Sources in the territories believe that the extremists in the territories will gain from the crisis.

"Many residents of the territories admit that their future is becoming dependent more on Saddam than on themselves."

In their report on page 5 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 28 August, Roni Shaqed and Hayim Broida note that "a heavy atmosphere of frustration and fear of an economic crisis that could affect the intifadah prevails in the territories. At the same time, many are beginning to hope that the PLO will evince a more moderate stand and will tone down its support for Iraq.

"Sources in the West Bank, who reported this, emphasize that Palestinian support for Iraq has brought upon them economic and political hardships in the world at large and more so in Israel because of the severance of ties with the Israeli left-wing." They cite a Nabulus personality who "expressed the hope that the Palestinians will wake up to reality soon.

"A marked decline in intifadah events has been noticed in various parts of the West Bank over the past few days because everyone is awaiting developments in Iraq and Kuwait."

"Unqualified support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and his decision to invade Kuwait has been noticed in the Israeli Arab villages in the Small Triangle over the past few days.

"In Friday sermons in the mosques, the speakers came out with an attack and sharp condemnation of the Kuwaiti rulers and the 'corrupt shaykhs' who they claimed squandered the people's money on gambling and other immoral deeds while the people walked around without food and clothing."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew's Nazareth correspondent Muhammad Khalilah reports on page 2 of the paper's 28 August issue about "public activity in Nazareth and a large number of Arab settlements in the Galilee in solidarity with Iraq and in opposition of the increased U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia." These manifestations include anti-U.S. graffiti, placards, and mass rallies. Two of them were organized by HADASH, the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality. The message in them is that "it is a crying shame that an asset belonging to the entire Arab nation is in the hands of kings and princes and is being exploited by Washington and the Western countries against the Arab nations. That is why the Arabs in every Arab country currently feel they are entitled to the assets and funds invested in the Western countries which, through U.S. imperialism, are brought back into the region in the form of support and aid for the Israeli occupier—whether as weapons or money—to threaten the Arab people and prevent peace."

Yehuda Tzur, reporting on page 2 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 28 August, adds that "there are many signs indicating a change in the Galilee Arabs' attitude toward Saddam Husayn's moves. This was reported yesterday by state bodies.

"They claim that what helped drive that point home is the local residents' growing understanding that a conflagration in the region could result in a war that could include Israel as well, and that the missiles and bombs will not distinguish between Jew and Arab. The sources reported that the Arab local councils have recently requested survival kits and training.

"According to the same sources, the Arab citizens in the Galilee feel that moderate public opinion in Israel, which sided with them in everything related to the solution of the Palestinian problem, is currently against them."

Tzur points out that "Eli'ezer Tzafrir, the prime minister's adviser on Arab affairs, has confirmed that a change has indeed taken place in Arab public opinion, but that this has not yet assumed massive dimensions."

Goren on Financial Distress in Territories

TA2408193390 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Interview with Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, by Eli Nisan; in Goren's office, date not given; in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Goren] A very large part of the population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is already in quite severe distress. It is true that the effect of the cut in financial aid has not been felt yet, but the very fact that people had to leave their place of work and are uncertain about their future is already having an effect on what is happening today in areas under our supervision.

[Nisan] When you say financial aid, do you refer to individuals, or institutions and local councils?

[Goren] I refer to several aspects. First, the direct aid that workers used to send their families. This involves a large number of laborers and a lot of money which may not continue to come in. Second, this involves the institutions that were massively supported by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia; there is uncertainty about their fate. The third issue is the number of projects that are not finished, such as health and education institutions that will almost certainly be very badly affected.

[Nisan] How will the Civil Administration deal with the thousands of workers who might return through the Jordan River bridges in view of this crisis.

[Goren] Naturally, we are not responsible for the damages caused to the residents of the territories as a result of what happened there. Nevertheless, we are aware of their distress, we are doing our best and have started preparing plans. For example, on the issue of exports, mainly agricultural exports, a large part of which have been sent to the Gulf countries each year. There is serious doubt of whether this will be possible now. Certainly, we could not agree for such goods to reach Iraq. We anticipate problems in this respect, and we have already notified the farmers to consider alternative markets. We will certainly help them to make sure, for example, that their produce reaches Saudi Arabia. We will not allow agricultural produce, or any other goods, to be sent to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Editorial Views Saudi Arabia, U.S. Weapons

TA2708130690 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Aug 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Saudi Arabia's Survival in the Face of Threat"]

[Text] Unless the members of the al-Sa'ud family really believed their lives were at stake, they would not have been able to overcome their customary inhibitions, which had always stopped them from calling U.S. forces into Saudi Arabia—until the present crisis. For over a decade, the defense of Saudi Arabia from military threats—Soviet, Iranian, and now Iraqi—has been a central tenet of U.S. policy in the Middle East. Nevertheless, the Saudis had always preferred to keep the full scope of U.S. military involvement in the defense of their kingdom a secret, except when they wanted to clip the wings of the pro-Israeli lobby in Washington. A few short months ago, while fighting for congressional approval for another U.S.-Saudi arms deal, Saudi Arabian officials showed an American television film crew the emergency infrastructure they had set up to accommodate and arm U.S. forces, when necessary. At the time they had meant to show that the United States had a loyal ally in the Gulf; almost overnight the situation changed, and the Saudis pleaded with the United States to come to their aid.

In time of danger, one should not nitpick. This was the case in October 1973 when Israel was facing the greatest threat ever to its survival, and the U.S. airlift supplied us with sophisticated goodies previously denied to us—and this is also the situation now, when in the course of the festive deployment of international forces against Iraq, the Saudis are going to be the beneficiaries of a large amount of weapons, with some of them coming from U.S. military units and thus unhindered by the routine report to Congress and the wait for its approval.

The Israeli Government is torn between its traditional opposition to the supply of sophisticated weaponry to countries which are at a state of war with us and its understanding of the U.S. desire to strengthen Saudi Arabia in its current confrontation with Saddam Husayn. The first argument is validated by the Iraqi seizure of Kuwait's Western arsenal during the conquest of that country, but Israel, on the other hand, cannot allow itself to appear to be sabotaging the military effort against Saddam Husayn. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney, addressing this point, publicly said that he is

convinced Israel will not oppose the supply of arms to Saudi Arabia, a country now faced with a "threat to its very survival."

Since the situation which has now transpired in the Gulf is far from normal, Israel should adopt a more creative attitude than in the past on the issue of arms to Saudi Arabia. It would be better to stress the question of U.S. control over arms sent to a country which could in future conceivably be taken over by a regime hostile to Israel, as well as the comparable needs of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. One of the solutions for this double problem is to renew the lend-lease program, both to Saudi Arabia and Israel, in a way that would enable the IDF to receive equipment (such as the Patriot ground-to-air missiles) at a minimal cost. Israel should not thumb its nose at Saudi Arabia's existential threats, but rather look for ways to counter the threats to its own survival.

Commentary Views Leadership Dilemmas on Gulf

TA2408121390 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 24 Aug 90 pp 4, 5

[Commentary by Shim'on Schiffer: "The Government Is Getting Ready for the Worst"]

[Text] What is the best solution to the current crisis with Iraq from Israel's point of view? This question has been cropping up in deliberations in Jerusalem, and the answers to it are more in the realm of wishful thinking than a real perception of the complexity of the problem.

Minister Roni Milo, a member of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, candidly and eloquently says: "Israel expects the Americans to get rid of the Iraqi shit without getting Israel's hands soiled."

At this point, the assessment in Israel is that a military confrontation between the United States and Iraq is inevitable, that through his statements and moves the U.S. President has committed himself to act in one direction—get rid of Saddam Husayn—and that any lesser result would be perceived as a failure in the United States and the international community.

If a military confrontation is inevitable, what will keep Israel from becoming involved? Referring to the dilemma facing the government in a television interview this week, the prime minister said that Israel would have to decide what to do when the confrontation between Iraq and the United States begins or, alternatively, in the event that hostilities do not break out.

The possible scenarios are known:

—Iraq fires missiles outfitted with chemical warheads at Israel.

—Jordan becomes an Iraqi protectorate state in either of two ways: Iraqi Army troops are "invited" to deploy on Jordanian soil to protect the kingdom, or the two countries step up their aerial cooperation—all this happening before hostilities begin between the United States and Iraq in the Gulf.

What will Israel do if things reach that point? Will it carry out a preemptive strike? Will it insist on the red lines it spoke about, thus risking the all-out move planned by the United States?

The most outstanding indication that the situation has worsened, from Israel's point of view, lies in the change in the prime minister's handling of the situation. At long last, this week the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs began looking into the matter in depth. "Shamir is looking for partners to share the responsibility," one minister remarked ironically. Hence, Israel will be quitting its posture as observer and interpreter and adopting the position of a potential partner.

This statement leads to the conclusion that as the crisis in the region continues and the number of U.S. troops arriving in the Gulf increases, there will be more need for in-depth cooperation between Israel and the United States, both on the tactical and strategic levels.

Until the last few days Israel complied with the U.S. request to keep a low profile and hardly be seen, while the United States was busy consolidating a coalition with moderate Arab countries to wrap the U.S. fist around the Gulf. Israel has been highly praised for its restrained behavior, most recently in the message U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney sent to his counterpart Moshe Arens.

According to experts in the intelligence community, however, the time is getting nearer when Israel will have to upgrade its dialogue with the United States. Foreign Minister David Levi has been saying as much in background briefings. He says that in the long run Israel cannot agree to play the role of "mistress" or "leper" in its relations with the United States with regard to the crisis in the region.

Speaking in closed circles, Levi warns of the danger that the U.S.-Arab coalition emerging as a result of the crisis with Iraq might cast Israel aside in its relations with the United States. Saudi Arabia and Egypt stand to receive huge amounts of weapons from the Americans.

In the meantime, political activity has been busy trying to make sure that Israel's intentions are clear to both friend and foe. The prime minister has emerged as the man zealously watching over King Husayn's throne. Who would have believed that Shamir and some of his colleagues in the Likud, who have for years intimidated Husayn with their pronouncements that Jordan is the Palestinian homeland, would be the ones speaking about the need to maintain the Hashemite kingdom's stability in the face of the present crisis with Iraq?

A few jarring notes were heard this week in the struggle between Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Foreign Minister David Levi, which did not do credit to the latter. The prime minister is upset by all the fuss over the relations between Israel's top decisionmakers. The impression that

Shamir cannot hold high-level consultations due to the rivalry between two of his senior ministers is not just dirty gossip. It has real repercussions for Israel's ability to react to what might happen in the region.

Levi is convinced that the defense minister takes him lightly because of his ethnic origins. The fact is it makes no difference whether this is right or wrong; on occasion even a paranoid has real reasons to feel threatened. Indeed, things are being said behind the foreign minister's back which smack of ethnic racism.

In sum, the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs this week began to involve itself in making the decisions called for by the crisis with Iraq:

—A greater measure of detailed cooperation with the United States is needed.

—Israel is getting ready for the worst-case scenarios.

This week, too, the leading team did not lead as a team. The only person knowing all the ins and out of the situation and who seems to be in control of the situation at this point is Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Kur, Soviets Negotiating Commercial Cooperation

TA2808150890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Kur Corporation [part of the Histadrut Labor Federation's holding company] has been conducting negotiations on commercial cooperation with the Soviet Union. Our economic affairs correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that Kur's directors today hosted a Soviet trade delegation composed of the directors of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions' trading company, which represents 20,000 firms. The two sides decided to proceed immediately to take action toward implementing commercial cooperation.

Editorial Criticizes UN Resolution on Force

JN2708145390 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
26 Aug 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "A Resolution Conflicting With International Law"]

[Text] Without regard for the spirit of general international law, which opposes discrimination and selectivity in the implementation of international resolutions, the UN Security Council approved yesterday the use of force to implement the resolution it adopted less than a month earlier, namely to impose economic sanctions on Iraq, while the same Council remained helpless to implement the many resolutions it had adopted two decades ago, namely, its rejection of the Israeli takeover of Arab territory by force and the Israeli annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan!

As a result of this selectivity, the Council has placed itself in a moral predicament that is hard to explain, and which poses a big question: Why has the Council rushed to impose sanctions on Iraq and pass a resolution to implement these sanctions by force, yet it has not taken similar measures against Israel, despite the fact that Iraq is calling for negotiations to settle the Gulf crisis, while Israel is threatening more expansion, claiming it is to absorb new Jewish immigrants?

The Security Council would have been in harmony with the spirit of international law if it had adopted the Iraqi initiative calling for wholesale implementation of all resolutions relating to the region. For in light of that initiative, it was, and still is, possible to resolve all difficult issues on which there are international resolutions, and from which the region is suffering. But the Council's excusing itself from implementing the majority of its resolutions and rushing to implement a resolution related to Iraq in a selective manner is surprising and a blow to its credibility.

Based on this reasoning, and in accordance with this view, we believe that the Iraqi delegate to the United Nations was right when he termed yesterday's Security Council resolution illegitimate. In addition, it is important now that the countries participating in the gathering fleets in the Gulf should understand the danger of intercepting ships, by virtue of the resolution allowing them to do so. For it is no secret that arbitrary practices cannot lead the Gulf crisis toward peaceful settlement. In fact, it could add new danger to the elements already threatening an explosion of the crisis.

If the Security Council was rash in adopting a resolution that lacks credibility and balance, then European decisionmakers should be slow to implement it, so that the current efforts to defuse the crisis might succeed. For what is important is not tightening the immoral siege against Iraq, but settling the crisis peacefully and justly. Perhaps it is useful to recall that acts of belligerence by the fleets will not succeed in bringing Iraq to its knees because it is merely playing with fire. We hope that those who are playing with fire will understand that peaceful negotiation is the irreplaceable way to save the Gulf region and protect legitimate interests in this region.

Editorial Opposes Foreign Ministers' Meeting

JN2908081890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
29 Aug 90 Second Edition pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Arab Foreign Ministers' Conference Does Not Serve the Arabization of the Crisis"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's political activities in Arab capitals are designed to work out an Arab framework for a basic, acceptable solution to the Gulf crisis and to prevent attempts to internationalize the crisis and push it to the brink of explosion. Jordan's talks with Libya and Tunisia, as well as other talks at the Arab and international levels, will clarify an Arab viewpoint that is free of foreign influence.

Hence our Arab nation, which views Iraq as a phenomenon that should be protected and preserved, attaches great importance to his majesty's move to save the region from foreign hostility. Therefore, we stress the importance and value of Jordan's move, its active, moderate diplomacy, and its credibility, which is viewed by the free world as a clear diplomacy that can play a leading role and achieve many goals.

Amid this Jordanian move, there is a call for holding a meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Cairo. This meeting will not serve an Arab solution because Cairo's views conflict with the Arab efforts to contain the crisis.

Cairo hosted the recent Arab summit conference, and before it, the Arab foreign ministers. Both meetings further escalated the current crisis, led to the condemnation of Iraq, provided legitimacy for the foreign interference, and wrested resolutions from the United Nations to serve the U.S. Administration and its imperialist plans in the region.

Therefore, we can say that the scheduled foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo comes at a wrong time, will not serve the issue, and will not save the region from explosion. Consequently, those who have called for the meeting should reconsider their call and come out of the narrow framework into which they have inserted themselves and which prevents the Arab nation from solving its problems and foiling the enemies' plans.

Badran Says Gulf Situation May 'Explode'

JN2108135590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran has noted the difficulty of diplomatic efforts to defuse war in the Gulf in view of the current escalation. He told our radio that King Husayn has informed U.S. President George Bush of Jordan's position on the Gulf crisis,

which calls for an end to the accelerating escalation of the crisis so that it will not provoke a similar escalation by the opposite side. He stressed that the escalation is hindering efforts to solve the crisis peacefully, and that dialogue cannot be given a chance as long as tension continues.

Badran warned that the situation might explode given the presence of foreign forces in the Arab peninsula. He stressed that Jordan is continuing its nonstop contacts on the Arab and international scenes to end the crisis peacefully and expressed the hope that the Arabs will be able to contain the crisis before it gets worse. Finally, Badran said that his country is waiting a reply from the United Nations concerning detailed information on the economic damage Jordan will suffer if it implements the embargo against Iraq. [passage omitted]

Charities Detail Donations for Iraq

JN2608120490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Aug 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The General Union of Voluntary Societies GUVS has collected JD 220,000 in cash and in-kind contributions from Jordanian citizens and organisations for the Iraqi people and said that it would hand the contributions to the Iraqi Embassy in Jordan Monday.

GUVS Executive President 'Abdallah al-Khatib said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the donations of milk, biscuits and medicines as well as cash will arrange for its delivery to Iraq as a gift from Jordanian families and children," al-Khatib said.

"A group of Jordanian children will deliver the donations Monday to Iraq's Ambassador to Jordan Nuri 'Isma'il al-Wayyis, who will arrange for its delivery to Iraq as a gift from Jordanian families and children," al-Khatib said.

The donations followed a wide-scale campaign by GUVS in the Jordanian media, appealing for assistance to the children of Iraq and underlining the Iraqi children's rights to food supplies in times of war.

GUVS, al-Khatib said, was holding contacts with various organisations based in Jordan, calling on them to offer contibutions to the Iraqi children in accordance with the international charters regarding children.

Al-Khatib said that GUVS had cabled heads of governments seeking an end to the blockage on Iraq's children who, he said, should have access to basic food commodities.

Last week al-Khatib said that JD 100,000 in cash and in-kind contributions were raised by GUVS teams in Jordan. He said that transportation companies had offered deep freeze trucks to transport foodstuffs such as milk, eggs and biscuits to Iraq.

Apart from notices in the local press calling on the public to offer contibutions, Khatib said he had over 14 foreign television interviews to support the campaign and urge organisations to offer donations to Iraqi children.

According to al-Khatib, GUVS had also been involved in campaigns to raise funds and collect contributions for Arab and national expatriates feeling to Jordan from the Gulf region.

He said the campaign had received a great response on the part of the Jordanian public. GUVS has organised teams to tour districts in various towns and collect contributions and meals to be offered to the expatriates at mosques and other centres, and has arranged for medical treatment for the evacuees.

Meanwhile Minister of Social Development 'Abd-al-Majid al-Shuraydah said Saturday that he had set up an emergency team to work around the clock to help provide food supplies and shelter to the Arab expatriates.

He said the team was working in conjunction with a national committee that was set up Thursday by Prime Minister Mudar Badran to supervise assistance for the evacuees.

The Professional Association Complex announced Saturday that it was looking after for nearly 2,000 evacuees, most of whom were being temporarily sheltered in mosques.

The Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions said that it was collecting medicines and clothes for the Iraqi people. It also said that a day's pay would be cut from the workers' wages in Jordan to be sent as a contribution to Iraq, and that at least JD 70,000 will be collected for this humanitarian cause.

Iraqi Airways Starts Flights to Kuwait

JN2308111790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23-24 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Iraqi Airways has started flights between Baghdad and Kuwait and the number of flights have gone up to four a day, according [to] evacuees arriving here from the Iraqi capital. The airline, which started operating a daily flight to Amman since Friday [24 August], now offers an immediate connection flight to Kuwait from the Iraqi capital for passengers arriving aboard the daily flight from Amman which leaves the Jordanian capital at 10 a.m., according to a report in the SAWT AL-SHAAB daily. There was no indication whether such facilities would be offered in the reverse direction, and an Iraqi airways spokesman was quoted as saying by SAWT AL SHAAB that the schedules of flights to Kuwait were not announced ahead of time as is the case with other "internal" flights.

Minister Leaves for PRC To Discuss Gulf Crisis

JN2408090890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has left for Beijing on a visit of several days. Al-Qasim will hold

talks with the Chinese officials on the latest developments in the Middle East, particularly the Gulf crisis.

Returns 28 Aug

JN2808205490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Amman this evening following a tour of China, Bahrain, the Sultanate of Oman, and the United Arab Emirates to deliver messages from His Majesty King Husayn to the leaders of these states on the Arabian Gulf crisis.

Al-Qasim Meets PLO's Qaddumi, UN Officials

JN2108151390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this morning received Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. During the meeting they exchanged views on the current situation in the Arabian Gulf. Qaddumi stressed that it is important for the Arabs to coordinate and make efforts to find a serious and rapid solution to the current crisis without military escalation and to launch a Palestinian initiative on an Arab solution to current problems.

Al-Qasim also received this morning Virendra Dayal, chef de cabinet of the Executive Office of the UN secretary general, and Kofi Annan, assistant secretary general for human resources management, who are traveling to Baghdad at the UN secretary general's request. After a comprehensive review of current issues and ways to limit the escalation of the situation and to find practical and appropriate solutions, al-Qasim explained Jordan's efforts to facilitate the transfer and reception of large numbers of people of various nationalities leaving Kuwait and Iraq.

Al-Qasim also explained the growing difficulties facing Jordan in receiving these numbers and providing accommodation for them, especially as 114,693 people have entered Jordan from 2 to 20 August. An increase in these numbers is expected, which will create additional pressures. He added that Jordan will continue to make every effort to facilitate the reception, residence, and travel of these large numbers. He then appealed to all countries to provide effective help so that these people can return to their countries and not to create complications in the formalities under these particular circumstances.

'Arafat Adviser Praises King Husayn's Efforts

JN2608151890 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0920 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, 26 Aug (PETRA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, the personal political adviser of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has paid tribute to the sincere efforts made by His Majesty King Husayn to open the door for a political Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

In a statement to PETRA, Abu-Sharif said His Majesty King Husayn's efforts are in complete accord with the intensive efforts being made by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, to secure a political Arab solution to the Gulf crisis and to defuse the potential war in the Middle East.

He added that Jordanian and Palestinian efforts constitute the necessary prelude to start constructive negotiations toward a political Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

He went on to say that President Saddam Husayn's initiatives for a political settlement are unequivocal for those who want to reach such a political solution.

He said that the Iraqi president has opened the doors for such a solution based on the principle of implementing UN Security Council resolutions on all Middle East issues, including the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories, and ending all forms of occupation in the region.

'Arafat's adviser said the chance to find a political solution to the crisis is available. He emphasized his demand that the European Community, which he said would be greatly harmed if war broke out in the Middle East, support Palestinian and Arab efforts to find a political Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

Abu-Sharif said that initiating consultations and negotiations among Arab leaders is the only way to find solutions that are satisfactory to all parties to the dispute in the region.

New Bank Notes To Go Into Circulation Soon

JN2308111990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23-24 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) is expected to put into circulation shortly new Jordanian banknotes which will be used alongside the current banknotes for several years until all the old paper money has been replaced in the market.

The move's timing coincide with a public rush for cash during the current crisis, and the availability of the new banknotes at the Central Bank.

The new bank notes are expected to be on the market in the coming few days.

The CBJ had decided not to place any restrictions on withdrawals nor did it stop attempts for withdrawing fixed deposits before their date of maturity because there is sufficient liquidity in the country.

The CBJ printed the new banknotes more than 10 years ago, and the time seem to have come now for the substitution, largely because the old banknotes have become worn out and the demand for Jordanian currency is up at this stage.

The new banknotes are not only newer, they are also more difficult to counterfeit, according to officials.

Islamists, Leftists Form 'National Front'

JN2008070490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Aug 90 pp 1, 4

[Text] In the clearest indication yet of an emerging rainbow coalition among the Islamic and secular political forces in the Arab World, Jordanian leftists, nationalists and the Muslim Brotherhood have agreed to form a "National Front" to confront the challenge posed to the Arabs by the Gulf crisis, including foreign troop presence in Saudi Arabia and Arabian Gulf waters.

According to political activists, the agreement was reached among the representatives of the various political groupings in the Lower House of Parliament—including the Islamists, leftists, pan-Arab nationalists, liberals as well as the traditionalists.

"There was an initial agreement to form a broad front to confront the American aggression," said 'Isa Madanat, the representative of the Jordanian Communist Party in the House. "The details have not been worked out yet but close coordination among all groups have started."

Madanat told the Jordan Times yesterday that all of the trends have agreed to sponsor joint rallies and activities against the "American intervention in the Gulf."

'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabyat, spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood and a deputy, confirmed that his movement was willing to coordinate and cooperate with all groups—regardless of their ideologies—to counter the threats "against Jordan and the Islamic Nation."

If the suggested "National Front" materialises, it will constitute the first coalition ever in the history of the country.

The initial agreement among the representatives of the rival groups reflects the extent to which the American decision to send troops to Saudi Arabia has unified all ideological trends in one trench, according to observers and analysts.

"The Amerian decision (to send troops to Saudi Arabia) has pushed all of the red buttons," a political activist said. Daily rallies and demonstrations across the Kingddom show the American position has affronted religious and pan-Arab nationalist feelings, and mobilised the left, which was in relative disarray following the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, against the spectre "of a neo-colonialist domination of the region."

In general, all groups feel united in their resentment of foreign intervention and control of Arab and Islamic territories and of the natural resources of the Arab World, the observers said. Furthermore, there is a consensus on what is viewed here as "the hypocrisy of the West," as people from all trends compare the American reluctance to take any practical measures to effect an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories to its swift mobilisation of forces following the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, according to the observers.

But the American action has also touched the different sensitivities of the various groups' ideals and values.

In the case of pan-Arab nationalists, "the Iraqi move into Kuwait and the removal of the ruling Al Sabah family has been seen as a first decisive step into undermining the control of pro-American regimes in the Arab World leading to the long-awaited Arab unity," noted an Arab nationalist activist.

The Jordanian popular reaction to the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait was revealing of the strength of pan-Arab nationalist feelings on the grass root levels, according to some analysts.

The other ideological groups, however, did not have the same reaction although most did not express any sympathy with the Gulf rulers who were always viewed by leftists as subservient to West and "its tool in the area, Israel."

In fact many leftist activists who were contacted by the Jordan Times immediately following the Iraqi move expressed reservations about the Iraqi military intervention.

At the same time, leftists did not conceal their feeling that the move would undermine the American influence in the region.

The Muslim Brotherhood, the biggest Islamist organisation in the country, initially objected to Baghdad's use of force. In its statements following the invasion, the Brotherhood also opposed the Iraqi-Kuwaiti merger and expressed full solidarity with the "Kuwaiti people."

The movement's position was expected partly due to its historic animosity to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and the Ba'thist party which he leads, and partly because it had good relations with the Gulf states, which reportedly backed the movement financially.

Intially therefore the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait widened the gap between the pan-Arab nationalists and the Islamists as the first group appeared to regain strength and emerge as a potential threat to the Islamic movement.

But the U.S.' decision to send troops to Saudi Arabia dramatically altered the equation and reshuffled the alliances bringing together the rivals of yesterday.

Although the Brotherhood did not change its position towards the Iraqi control of Kuwait, the arrival of American troops in Saudi Arabia, the site of two of the most revered Islamic shrines, Mecca and al-Madinah—provoked a sharp shift in the movement's position. "Regardless of our opinion of Saddam Husayn, King Fahd's invitation of American troops to the Holy Land was utterly unacceptable," a Muslim Brotherhood official said. "Jerusalem was already under Israeli occupation and now the two most important Islamic shrines left were under American control," he noted.

The Saudi move ignited long-held Islamic frustration and anger against the perceived Western disdain of holy Islamic religion and shrines, promoting speakers at a mass rally

organised by the movement after the U.S. deployment in Saudi Arabia to accuse King Fahd of "treachery".

"The issue at stake was no longer an Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict but a new crusade against Islam. The result was the perceived coalition of all various groups against one enemy, the U.S.," one of the observers said.

Although this emerging coalition has not yet taken a definite shape, and demonstrations in support of Iraq and against the U.S. have rallies nevertheless been coorganised by all groups which have joined forces under "the committee of defence of Iraq against the American invasion."

Both Islamist and leftist groups have been issuing appeals in the Arabic dailies calling for national unity and for an all-out mobilisation of the people—a unity which contrasts sharply with the heated competition rivarly which prevailed prior to the eruption of the Gulf crisis.

According to many political observers, those early days the seculars and the Islamists were heading to a showdown as they competed to control popular organisations and public opinion across the country.

The challenge posed by the presence of the American troops, however, has reversed the confrontational process into one of cooperation, and understanding, those observers said.

Arab analysts believe that the narrowing of the gap between the seculars and the Islamists applies to all countries in varying degrees, although its manifestations are stronger in Jordan, Tunisia and Algeria, mainly due to broader political freedoms, than in most other Arab countries and to the obvious strength of the Islamists in the three states.

In the case of Jordan, in the period before the Gulf crisis erupted, the internal political scene was characterised not only by the strong rivalry between the Islamists and the seculars but also by the latter being plagued by serious divisions among themselves.

Weakened by those divisions, the secular groups were faced by a strong challenge which the more homogeneous Islamists presented them with in successive bids to control the professional associations, the trade and students unions, youth and women organisations, as well as Jordanian local councils.

Except for the professional associations, the Islamists swept the councils of most of the popular oranisations, including the women's union. The rivarly and the dominance of the Islamists created fears that either the Jordanian life style was threatened or the competition might take violent forms, jeopardising the national unity of the country.

But less than a week following the arrival of foreign troops to the Gulf, all political trends in Jordan decided to unify their efforts to "confront the American invasion."

In Algeria, the growing tension between the Islamic salvation Front, which swept the general parliamentary elections there recently, and the more secular—with leftist leanings—Algerian Liberation Front Party, appears to have temporarily deescalated as both opposed the American role in the Gulf.

To a certain extent the same applies to Tunisia, where friction between the seculars and the Islamists was widening, in favour of the latter. There, again, all groups joined in rallies and committees "against the American intervention."

Although the convergence of interests between the seculars and the fundamentalists, even if it might be for short term, applies to the popular movement in most Arab countries. In the case of Egypt and Syria, the conflicting positions of the Islamists and the government could actually widen the gap, some analysts argue.

In Syria, the Muslim Brotherhood, which was dealt a heavy blow several years ago when Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad ordered his troops to shell their stronghold in Hama, has declared its willingness to escalate the struggle against the government. The Syrian Brotherhood is said to have been encouraged by signs of Arab and Islamic popular condemnation of the Damascus government's support for the dispatching of Syrian and other Arab troops to join the American-led forces in Saudi Arabia.

In Egypt, where Iraq does not appear to enjoy the same popular support, the Egyptian secular parties, particularly leftist parties, and the Muslim Brotherhood showed an almost identical position in opposing both the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait and the American presence in the Gulf.

All analysts agree, however, that the results of the newly emerging alliance between the Islamists and seculars, might contribute to popular uprising against pro-American governments in the region if a military confrontation between Iraq and the U.S. were to take place.

Release of Waite Expected 'Within' Week

NC2908061890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] A Lebanese radio station has stressed that Terry Waite, envoy of the Anglican Church, will be the next hostage to be freed within the week.

Citing knowledgeable sources, [Clandestine] Voice of the People reported that all the European hostages will be freed very soon in light of the positive stands adopted by Britain and France. The sources added that all the U.S. hostages will be freed immediately when the frozen Iranian assets in the United States are released.

Groups Condemn Iraqi Invasion, U.S. Build Up

NC2708114590 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 23 Aug 90 p 3

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Iraqi opposition parties yesterday held a news conference at the Maryland Hotel which was attended by Press Association Chairman Muhammad al-Ba'labakki. Shaykh Muhammad Haydari read a statement in which he strongly attacked Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and condemned the "Iraqi dictatorial regime's invasion of Kuwait." The statement said:

"The occupation and annexation of Kuwait is a serious precedent which will create a hotbed of extreme tension in the area. It is a clear indication of the aggressive and expansionist policy of Saddam Husayn's regime and its tendency to to use all types of force, at home and abroad, to solve its problems and divert attention from the growing public demands for political freedom and the establishment of a state of law in Iraq."

"The crisis created by Saddam Husayn's regime and the dangerous developments which it produced, particularly the occupation and forcible annexation of Kuwait, the consequent arrival of foreign military forces in our area, and the dangers such a development pose to Iraq and the entire area have all pushed the situation to a dangerous juncture, jeopardized security, stability, and peace in the region and the world, and aroused fears and concern in various Iraqi, Arab, and Islamic circles."

The statement added: "Iraq's occupation of Kuwait transforms the Arab-Zionist conflict into an Arab-Arab conflict. The occupation has provided a big opportunity to U.S. imperialism to expand its military presence and flagrant interference in the area and to prepare for aggression and attacks against Iraqi and Arab economic and military installations."

"On the other hand, the aggression against Kuwait constitutes a dangerous development on the Arab and Islamic levels and a flagrant violation of international law and the Arab League, Islamic Conference Organization, and UN Charters. It also constitutes an obstacle to the efforts to achieve effective Arab and Islamic solidarity against imperialism and Zionism. The aggression against Kuwait diverted attention from the just cause of the Palestinian Arab people and their heroic intifadah and left the door wide open for Zionism to continue settling Jewish immigrants in the occupied Palestinian lands and weakening the Arab nation's resolve to confront the imperialist-Zionist plans."

"The Iraqi Islamic and national movement, which expresses the interests and aspirations of our Iraqi people—Arab, Kurds, and national minorities—views Saddam Husayn's occupation of Kuwait and aggravation of the situation in the area as an action that contradicts the will and aspirations of our Iraqi masses. It holds the ruling dictatorial clique, headed by Saddam Husayn, responsible for all the repercussions of this occupation." [passage omitted]

Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, has said that "the U.S. Administration's military buildup is not intended to defend Saudi Arabia but to dominate the oil wells and occupy the Gulf and then control the Arab decision and will."

In a statement he made yesterday, Sa'd said: "The Nasirite Popular Organization regards the presence of these foreign forces as an occupation which, like the Zionist forces' occupation of Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian territory, must be resisted. It constitutes the real danger which is threatening the holy places and, in conjunction with the Zionist enemy, to the past, present, and future of the Arab nation. The Popular Organization regards the defense of the holy places as an Arab national responsibility in the face of these dangers and these foreign forces."

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, has affirmed that "jihad is a duty which God has decreed should serve as the method with which Muslims can confront this occupation imposed on our Arab countries by the U.S. Administration."

In a statement he made yesterday, Sha'ban said: "The hostages of Bush and the imperialist states are no better than our hostages in Palestine and in the rest of the Arab and Islamic world. It is our duty to treat Bush and every national who belongs to an aggressive state in the same way as Muslims are treated. The daily killing of Palestinian people is an American aggression. The killing of Lebanese, which has been going on for the past 16 years, is an American aggression. The Gulf war against Iran was an American aggression."

He added: What Saddam has done to the foreigners is 1 million times less than the crimes which U.S. policy has committed and is committing.

Shaykh Sha'ban attacked King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and described him as "the king who hosts world infidelity."

The Organization of Revolutionary Socialists in Lebanon and the Arab Revolutionary Workers Party in Lebanon issued a statement yesterday strongly attacking the Iraqi regime. [passage omitted]

The leadership of the Nasirite Nationalist Organization in Lebanon held a meeting under its leader Samir Sharkas and issued a statement in which it condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and called for immediate withdrawal.

The Liberation Party issued a statement in Sidon yesterday in which it attacked the United States and the states which have imposed the economic blockade on Iraq, and called on the Muslims "not to obey the U.S. decision and to reject the blockade."

The Palestinian Communist Workers Party issued a statement which said: "Our Palestinian people and their leadership cannot but support the front against U.S. imperialism and Israel."

Cabinet Adopts Measures on Economic Situation

NC2808121990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The cabinet devoted its session today to discussing the economic situation. The cabinet decided to turn itself into a state of emergency committee and to continue its sessions in order to do what is necessary at this stage. It adopted a number of decisions and decided to take urgent measures to deal with the emergency and deteriorating situation by asking the Bank of Lebanon to provide funds to the Tripoli refinery to buy crude oil. It also entrusted the oil minister with the task of importing oil for local consumption. The importation of oil will be from state to state, without middlemen or payment of commissions.

The cabinet also adopted measures to operate buses in all areas possible, and it adopted a decision to institute control over bakeries to supervise the weight and price of bread. The cabinet decided to ask the Bank of Lebanon to take action to deal with the drop in the value of the Lebanese pound. [passage omitted]

Entry of Agricultural Produce Into Lebanon Banned

JN2808112890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Aug 90 Second Edition p 1

["Exclusive report"]

[Text] A number of leading fruit and vegetable merchants in the local market affirmed to SAWT AL-SHA'B yesterday that Lebanese authorities have banned the entry of Jordanian agricultural produce into Lebanese territory over the past three days and asked the refrigerated trucks carrying these products to head back to Jordan. The merchants added that the Lebanese authorities gave no reason for this unexpected move, despite the fact that during this season they have permitted the entry of hundreds of tonnes of Jordanian agricultural produce into Lebanese territory.

SLA Commander Goes to FRG for Medical Treatment

TA2708193290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] The commander of the South Lebanese Army, General Antoine Lahd, has fallen ill and been flown to West Germany for treatment. The 62-year-old general, who was shot and critically wounded in an assassination attrempt in 1988, has reportedly been replaced by his chief of staff, Major Karmala Sa'id.

The south Lebanon security sources who revealed this information said it was not known if the general's medical problem was related to the 1988 shooting.

Sources in South Deny Report

TA2808102690 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Aug 90 p 4

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[Text] Sources in southern Lebanon yesterday denied reports by foreign news agencies stating that General Antoine Lahd, the commander of the SLA [South Lebanese Army], had been hospitalized in the FRG. According to those reports, Lahd had been feeling bad, as a result of old injuries to his arm and hand, which were incurred when a Lebanese woman shot him at his house in November 1988. As reported, the southern Lebanese forces vehemently denied the report and pointed out that Lahd is continuing to serve as the SLA's commander, and is feeling well. It should be noted that Gen. Lahd visited the FRG several times this year for treatment of his injuries.

Death of Deputy Bakhus Hakim Mourned

NC2808090290 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The al-Kurah district, the North, all Lebanon, and the Chamber of Deputies have lost one of their prominent figures, the late Deputy Dr. Bakhus Hakim, who died Monday night. Grief has gripped al-Kurah district, the northern districts, and the parliamentary circles over the loss of a politician who was characterized by moderation and courage in taking a position when circumstances demanded. The Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon from Ihdin declare a period of mourning. Its programs will be limited to news, commentaries, and classical music.

250 Citizens Arrive From Nigeria

NC2308130790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] A total of 250 Lebanese nationals arived at Beirut airport today. They were flown in on a Middle East Airways aircraft from Nigeria.

125 Nationals Return From Liberia

NC2608173290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] A plane arrived today at Beirut International Airport from Sierra Leone with 125 Lebanese nationals who had left Liberia. Another plane is expected to arrive on Wednesday, 29 August, with the remaining Lebanese who are still in Liberia.

Drug Ship Reportedly Sails From Al-'Uqaybah

NC2408115090 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] AL-'AWASIF magazine has disclosed that a ship carrying 25 tons of hashish and opium has left the port of al-'Uqaybah, which is controlled by the Lebanese Forces militias.

The magazine notes that the income created by the sale of this merchandise will go to the Lebanese Forces taxation department, and that a man called Habib Ja'ja' is personally supervising the marketing of this merchandise.

Seven Killed in Amal Training Camp Explosion

NC2508192190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] An explosion took place this afternoon at an Amal Movement training camp in the al-Biqa'. AFP said that the explosion left seven people dead and eight others wounded. The agency added that the Syrian forces closed the roads leading to the site of the explosion to enable ambulances to evacuate the casualties.

Violence Continues in South, Iqlim Al-Tuffah

Israel Reinforces Positions

NC2408100390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] According to reports received from the occupied border strip, the occupation forces have sent fresh reinforcements to their positions in the eastern sector of the border strip in the past 24 hours. These reinforcements included nine Merkava tanks and troop carriers. The vehicles proceeded from Metulla via the al-Dardarah plain and Hasbayya road.

Intermittent Clashes Occur

NC2808115290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Intermittent clashes involving various types of weapons are taking place in Iqlim al-Tuffah between Amal Movement and Hizballah positions. The clashes are concentrated on the combat lines of Jarju', 'Arab Salim, Kafr Milki, Kafr Hatta, Humin al- Fawqa, and al-Sakhriyah hill.

An Amal Movement information source accused Hizballah of causing the flareup on the Iqlim al-Tuffah lines and said: The Amal Movement positions in Kafr Hatta, Humin al-Fawqa, and al-Sakhriyah hill have been coming under heavy-caliber machine gun fire and rockets from Hizballah positions. The source added: 'Arab Salim came under fire from 107-mm rocket launchers at 0700 today. One civilian was wounded and a number of houses were damaged.

Pro-'Awn Units Attack Lebanese Forces' Positions

NC2908062790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Pro-'Awn units caused the situation to flare up last night and early today when they bombarded the Lebanese Forces' positions along the combat lines of al-Tibbiyah and Olivetti at 2300 last night.

At 0115 today, the pro-'Awn units stepped up their attacks on Sinn al-Fil and al-Ashrafiyah with tank and mortar fire. Members of the security committee made intensive contacts and managed to reach a cease-fire at around 0200 today.

Hizballah Denies Amal's Claims on Explosion

NC2908065990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Commenting on the explosion in Humin al-Fawqah two days ago and in response to the claims made by the Amal Movement's gangs, a Hizballah information source said these gangs are desperately trying to absolve themselves of the responsibility of the explosion by leveling random accusations.

In his statement, the source said: We categorically deny the false Amal claims and affirm that the gangs' resort to lies and falsehood in order to launch their onslaught against the devout people will not absolve them of the responsibility for the explosion. The explosion, the source went on to say, occurred in the wake of the conflict between the Amal Movement's gangs and the inhabitants due to the movement's military presence in the village and its repeated attacks on the inhabitants. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad's Talks With Egypt's Mubarak Detailed

JN2808210190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Damascus tonight after paying a working visit to Alexandria, during which he held talks with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a closed meeting lasting two and a half hours at the Ra's al-Tin Palace. President Mubarak then held a luncheon banquet in honor of the president. The luncheon was attended by the president's delegation, Egyptian ministers, and senior officials in Alexnadria.

The two presidents then held another closed meeting lasting one and a half hours. The Syrian and Egyptian delegations also held a meeting. [passage omitted]

The talks during the meeting dealt with the serious situation in the Gulf resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent developments that have increased the seriousness and complexity of the situation and the possibilities of explosion. The two presidents expressed their concern over these developments in the Gulf and the great dangers resulting from Iraq's refusal to defuse the situation by responding to the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit and the sincere calls addressed to it to withdraw from Kuwait, to restore legitimacy to Kuwait, and remove the causes that resulted in reducing the situation to its present state.

The Syrian and Egyptian sides found that their pan-Arab responsibility toward the Arab nation in general and fraternal Iraq in particular, and their concern about the security and development of the Arab countries and the security and stability of the Arab nation, make it necessary for them to declare their denunciation of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and its announcement that it annexed the country. It is also necessary for them to call for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government to this Arab country, which is a member of the Arab League and the United Nations.

The two sides also found that their concern about the pan-Arab cause and about the unity of Arab action and the goal of Arab unity calls on them, out of pan-Arab principles, to reject the principle of forceful annexation because it is in conflict with the interests of the Arab nation. If the principle of aggression and annexation by force and the cancellation of an Arab country by another is allowed to become a principle and a model, then the stability of the Arab homeland will be shaken and we may see a number of similar Arab operations. Other Arab countries will suffer what has befallen Kuwait, and the operation will recur in other places.

The two presidents believe that swallowing up an Arab country by another by the use of force has grave consequences, the least of which is to justify the expansionist schemes of the Zionist enemy. Moreover, it poses threat to the general Arab situation and the pan-Arab cause, deals a blow to the unified Arab action and to our peoples' intifadah, and diverts Arab and world attention from the pan-Arab issue.

The two presidents stressed that out of pan-Arab responsibility and concern about the relations of Arab brotherhood, they declare that they support any Arab country subjected to aggression and against any Arab country perpetrating an act of aggression against another Arab country. The two presidents agreed to continue their cooperation and coordination to defend the Arab nation. And proceeding from principles, not selfish and local interests, they call for an Iraqi pullout from Kuwait and for the restoration of legitimacy to that country because the Iraqi action is in violation of the Arab League Charter, the principles of the UN Charter, international law, and Arab treaties. They see in the withdrawal and the restoration of legitimacy the only way to remedy the serious situation in the Gulf, and believe that any political moves not proceeding from the principle of withdrawal and the return of legitimacy would not lead to a political solution and would further complicate the situation and increase threats to the Arabs. The two presidents believe that any Arab moves not proceeding from the implementation of the emergency Arab summit resolutions reflect either narrow personal interests or motives far beyond.

Papers View Al-Asad Visit to Alexandria

JN2908083190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial today under the headline "The Alexandria Meeting and the Road to Peace," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Leader al-Asad's visit to Alexandria is of a special importance in light of the complicated circumstances created by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which involved the Arab nation in a whirlpool of dangers.

TISHRIN adds: Leader al-Asad's visit to Egypt and his talks with President Husni Mubarak are a continuation of Syria's persistent efforts to defuse the Gulf crisis and to save the Arabs and Iraq from unpredictable consequences. This visit was a precious opportunity to exchange opinions about the situation resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and to define the two countries' stands very clearly. Syria and Egypt reject the principle of annexation by force because this serves the interests of Zionism and leads to fragmenting the homeland. This visit has also proved the importance of the Syrian-Egyptian coordination. Developments showed the cooperation between the two fraternal countries in pan-Arab fields provides an objective basis for safeguarding pan-Arab security from the threats it is now being exposed to.

TISHRIN points out that Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak, during their meeting yesterday, stressed the need to defuse the situation and that this can be achieved through Iraq's response to the emergency Arab summit resolutions and the international will.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The road to peace has become clear, and he who wants to proceed on this road should resort to reason and logic and implement the resolutions of the emergency summit and the UN Security Council. Only then Iraq can be saved from the unknown destiny and the Arabs can avoid further tragedies and catastrophes.

Under the headline "Containing the Crisis Within the Arab Fold is a Pan-Arab Objective Sought by Leader al-Asad," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: During his short visit to Egypt, leader President al-Asad held five-hour talks with President Husni Mubarak described by Arab and world news media as extremely important in light of the tense, serious, and volatile situation that was created by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Leader al-Asad's visit to Alexandria and his meeting with President Mubarak are within the framework of the existing consultations between the two countries to discuss latest developments in the Iraqi invasion and to deter the dangers posed by this invasion.

AL-BA'TH adds: From the first day of the Iraqi invasion, Syria has stressed that Arab leaders should meet to make the appropriate decision to contain the crisis within the Arab fold. Syria insists that the Arabs can find the appropriate solution if some circumstances are secured. Leader al-Asad's statements at the Cairo emergency summit were very clear. He said that all the enemies of the nation have for a long time been preparing for an action to fragment the nation and to distract the world attention from the issue of the Arab-Zionist conflict.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Averting the catastrophe is basically in the interest of the Arab nation. He who thinks that he is far from this danger is mistaken.

In its commentary under the headline "Before It is Too Late," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Ending the invasion and removing its consequences is by all standards a disavowal of the wrong action that Iraq should redress through withdrawing from Kuwait, just as it withdrew from the territories it occupied during its war against Iran, whose slogans it refuted when it recognized the Algiers agreement, the cancellation of which marked the beginning of the crazy war, including all its catastrophic consequences.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The danger here is more serious and its impact will be more comprehensive because the spark of explosion, if it breaks out, cannot be controlled, and consequently there will be no chance to disavow the wrongdoing because it will be too late.

In another commentary under the headline "Do Not Dismember the Intifadah," AL-THAWRAH says: Amid the serious and escalating developments in the flammable Gulf crisis, the intifadah finds itself alone, separated from its pan-Arab depth in the Arab arena and without a cover or support after the earthquake-like event that is embodied by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, distracted world attention to divert it to one of the most complicated contemporary problems threatening world peace and security with grave dangers. This situation has left the Palestinian intifadah alone in the face of the Zionist war machine without cover or support.

Lebanon's Al-Hirawi Arrives in Damascus 29 Aug

JN2908111490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi arrived in Damascus at 1100 today. Upon arriving in Tishrin Palace, President al-Hirawi was received by President Hafiz al-Asad. He was also received by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The Lebanese president arrived at the Syrian-Lebanese border point at 1030 today accompanied by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al- Husayni and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss. He was received at the border point by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Presidential Affairs Minister Wahib Fadil, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur.

President Hafiz al-Asad and President Ilyas al-Hirawi held a meeting at Tishrin Palace. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al- Qadir Qaddurah, Prime minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Presidential Affairs Minister Wahib Fadil, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur. On the Lebanese side, the meeting was attended by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss.

At 1200 today, the two presidents resumed the talks at the Presidential Palace. It was attended by Husayn al-Husayni, Dr. Salim al-Huss, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Faruq al-Shar'.

Prime Minister Meets With Romanian Official

JN2808182190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1300 today Mr. Napoleon Bobu, Romanian deputy minister of trade and tourism. The meeting was attended by Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, and the Romanian ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, the Romanian guest conveyed an oral message from the Romanian prime minister and his greetings to Mr. al-Zu'bi, who entrusted him with carrying an answer to the Romanian prime minister along with his greetings.

During the meeting, talks centered on bilateral relations between Syria and Romania and agreements that have already been implemented.

Discussions also centered on topics and issues concerning economic and trade relations, convening the

Joint Higher Syrian-Romanian Committee, and the importance of developing cooperation in various fields for the sake of the joint interests of Syria and Romania.

Cabinet Discusses Facilities for Kuwait Returnees

JN2808183190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Excerpt] At 1100 today, the Council of Ministers met under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi to discuss the work of the services and economic committees, several organizational projects, and agreements with friendly countries.

The Council of Ministers also reviewed government measures to provide facilities for Syrians and Arabs who were residing in Kuwait and were exposed to unfavorable circumstances as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. It reiterated the importance of such measures. [passage omitted]

Commentary Says Iraqi Withdrawal 'Essential'

JN2808145890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, the UN secretary general is scheduled to leave for the Middle East tomorrow, Wednesday, to discuss the possibility of containing the explosive situation in the Gulf and achieving a peaceful solution to the crisis. The secretary general said in the Security Council session yesterday that he will ask the Iraqi officials to submit to the international will and abide by the Council's resolutions, whether concerning the pullout from Kuwait or the release of the Western nationals held in Iraq.

For its part, the Soviet Union has called on the Arab countries to display cohesion and exert further efforts to prevent the breakout of the fire. It also called on Iraq to comply with Arab and international efforts to get out of the impasse into which it pushed itself—namely, by leaving Kuwait to its people.

Clearly, all efforts exerted so far, and those that will be exerted in the future, proceed from the need for an Iraqi withdrawal. It is difficult to imagine a way out of the crisis without this withdrawal. The numerous Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis, moreover, underscore the question of withdrawal. In other words, without Iraq pulling out of Kuwait, the trade and economic embargo on Iraq is not going to be lifted, the military embargo is not going to be lifted and the foreign forces and fleets are not going to be withdrawn from the Gulf. The chain is closely and completely linked. If the current diplomatic efforts fail, the situation augurs great danger. A single heedless bullet will ignite the entire region.

Therefore, the Iraqi Government's return to the principles and charters of the Arab League and to the resolutions of the emergency summit in Cairo is the true key to solution. The reckless Iraqi step of occupying Kuwait caused massive damage not only to Iraq and Kuwait, but also to the Arab cause and the overall pan-Arab struggle. The question is not that of restoring or not restoring of a royal family to power, but that of entrenching, complying with, and acting upon pan-Arab values and principles.

Common Arab action requires concerted efforts, mobilized capabilities, good intentions, and faithfulness to the cause. How can any joint Arab action move in the right direction when we perpetuate force as the means of solving disputes and differences? If we look at the current situation, we find Arab solidarity in its worst shape, threatening total collapse. The Israeli enemy, on the other hand, is in a very comfortable position. The Jewish immigration is growing and the Zionist oppression in the occupied territories has completely been forgotten. Israel is only waiting for the fire to start in the Gulf so that it can deal its blow and expel our kinfolk from the West Bank and Jerusalem to the Arab countries.

Arab unity, unity between two or more countries, or, indeed, common Arab action in its simplest form requires voluntary participation by everybody. The time when force was a possible instrument to achieve unity between two countries is over; indeed, the use of force in our age is of no benefit and threatens disasters and scourges. Iraq itself experienced the use of force, and after 10 years of bitter and bloody conflict with its neighbor, Iran, it returned to the starting point, and the blood of 1 million people went for nothing.

Political and economic cooperation is the way to unity today. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait brought exactly opposite results. The countries that felt or that are feeling threatened have sought help from foreign forces, and this created new barriers before the possibility of achieving a minimum level of common Arab action. The chain is completely linked, and a defusion of tension requires the Iraqi withdrawal and the return of things to normal in Kuwait. This may be difficult, but it is essential. It is not more difficult than Iraq's recent acceptance of the Algiers agreement. After all, Kuwait is an Arab country.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Opens Meli Shura

LD2808221590 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Address by Afghan President Najibullah opening the Meli Shura in Kabul on 28 August—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: esteemed members of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan. In accordance with Article 86 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, I open the fifth session of the country's Meli Shura in the name of almighty God and with hope for the cessation of war and the maintenance of peace in our beloved country.

Three months have passed since the end of the previous session, which corresponded to the work of the Grand Assembly of Jawza [May-June], of this year and the formation of the new government. During this period our people unfortunately have suffered hard times as a result of the continuation of war and of military pressure from the extremists. The characteristic activities of the warmongers were missile attacks, military pressure on some border provinces, subversion, economic sabotage, and psychological war. Protectors of the extremists are determined to maintain their unlawful interests by enhancing the forces of power linked to them, despite the internal pressure in their countries and [pressure by] international peace-loving circles. Despite these indications of signs of realistic approaches to the question of Afghanistan, in practice these forces continue to encourage and protect extremists.

The Republic of Afghanistan has concentrated all its efforts on ending the war and maintaining peace in the country during this period, and has sincerely and consistently pursued a policy of national reconciliation. In accordance with the decisions and intentions of the Grand Assembly of the month of Jawza, we continue the process of negotiating with and understanding the opposition forces, the results of which are being witnessed. Fortunately, as a result of the consistent efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan to maintain contact with Afghan political and social forces abroad, good relations with a number of these have been created, and messages and letters containing opinions and plans to end the war and maintain peace in the country have been exchanged.

In letters from a number of personalities abroad, there is categorical acceptance of a political solution through understanding and talks with all Afghan political forces. Efforts by the Republic of Afghanistan to further implement the policy of national reconciliation, which is in accord with the demands of international situation and the new detente between the big powers, have advanced the level of realistic approach regarding Afghan matters. Recently, the inclination of the big powers to seek political solutions to regional questions, including the question of Afghanistan, has increased. We welcome the shaping of understanding between the Soviet Union and the United States concerning their assistance in the political solution to the question of our country. It is worth mentioning that external factors, notwithstanding that they have an active role in accelerating this type of solution, will never be able to take the place of internal factors.

The proof of the survival capability of the Republic of Afghanistan during the one and a half years of independent defense of the country, the changes in the policy and structure of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Watan Party, and the positive developments toward the political solution of the question of Afghanistan, permit the conclusion that preliminary grounds for negotiation and dialogue between the Republic of Afghanistan and those opposition parties, organizations, and personalities who wish to enter the process of peace have been prepared. Therefore, while thanking international efforts and individual countries for their assistance in the political solution of the question of Afghanistan, we once again categorically state that without the comprehensive participation of all Afghan political forces and effective personalities, inside and outside the country in this process, and without the creation of an atmosphere of mutual trust—which requires the abandonment of a military approach and agreement on a realistic political solution—it is not possible to reach a comprehensive and peaceful solution to the question of Afghanistan.

Esteemed deputies and senators, despite the state's concentrating efforts on defense and resistance to military pressure, a series of measures and steps have been taken in other aspects of social life. The new government, given a vote of confidence a the end of fourth session of the Meli Shura, started its work. The Armed Forces of the country have made new advances in some directions, especially in Jalalabad, on the periphery of Kabul, and in the northeastern part of the country.

Generally speaking, positive changes have appeared in the positions of internal commanders, moderate groups, and personalities of the opposition, and in the positions of the some Western countries as well.

In spite of the relative successes of the Republic of Afghanistan in political and military fields, many difficulties are before us. Their alleviation requires honest and patriotic work by each of us. War and foreign interference, which tortures our compatriots daily, continue. Enormous damages have been inflicted on the national economy, and the problems of the refugees have not yet been resolved. The tangible desire of the refugees to return to the homeland gains momentum. Despite obstacles brought about by extremist leaders to block the return of the refugees, an increased number of our compatriots have returned to the country. Heads of formations have asserted their opposition to the three month pilot UN repatriation program under which 250,000 refugees will retrun to the country. Some of them who have made the existence of the refugees a pretext for accumulating wealth and recruits from their [refugee] youths to continue the war. These people want to see this process fail through the use of threat and pressure.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, parallel to existing measures, has initiated due measures to implement the UN program for the repatriation of the refugees, and will not spare any cooperation with UN officials in this respect.

Esteemed friends, fortunately the opening and closing of any session of the parliament coincides with important political and social events of the country. We recall that the 30 October 1987 proposals were expressed for the first from the country's parliament's tribune. The mechanism to implement this was also announced at the beginning or the ending sessions of Afghanistan's Meli Shura. This does not take place by chance, but knowingly, because we attach much importance to the role and share of the parliament and its members in the political, economic, social, national, and international life of the country. We are fully confident that members of Afghanistan's Meli Shura know, in the present circumstances, their national patriotic responsibilities and pay their patriotic dues and fulfil their mission for the cessation of war and the restoration of peace.

I fully believe that the esteemed deputies, as in the past, have engaged in fruitful activities in their constituencies.

Life has brought about the possibilities of activities to end the war for each of our compatriots, and especially you who represent the people of Afghanistan in parliament. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan believes that it is high time the peace-creating toil of deputies and senators was summed up and was ensured as positive symbols of work. We hope the patriotic activities and work of each of our country's deputies and senators will not remain hidden from the vision of the grateful people of Afghanistan in this critical historic stage. In that case, the people of Afghanistan will recognize and revert those self- sacrificing and self-denying persons, who have taken steps for the cessation of war and the restoration of peace. They have endured hardships and fulfilled and fulfil their national responsibility in this critical time in the history of the country.

Esteemed deputies and senators, as you know, I recently had meetings with M.S. Gorbachev, president, Ryzhkov, the prime minister, and E. Shevardnadze, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, and other Soviet state and party figures. The meetings discussed the measures taken by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan to reach a political solution of the Afghan problem and promote the comprehensive continuation of the national reconciliation policy in the country; and the necessity of preserving and developing the traditional relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union on the basis of the interests of the people of the two countries was stressed. Talks were held on bilateral relations, Afghan-Soviet cooperation undertakings, and the expansion of mutual cooperation. The importance of strengthening the mutually beneficial character of the cooperation was highlighted. The sides stressed the expansion and strengthening of economic relations, and noted that the efforts of the Soviet Union to resolve the Afghan problem, and the overall help of that country for our people in these dificult moments, are of great importance.

Dear deputies, here I would like to draw your attention to another point. During my stay in the Soviet Union I came to hear of rumors in the country that I would not return to the homeland. In connection with this I would like to stress that all those rumors were baseless and their aim was to confuse our people [applause]. It is known to you, representatives of the nation, and all our people that in the most difficult situation, when our people and the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan were faced with military seige, economic blockade, and severe shortage of food and fuel; and when, after the withdrawal of Soviet forces, the offensives of the joint forces of the extremists and their foreign supporters against our dear homeland, Afghanistan, and against some cities and provinces continued and rocket attacks on Kabul persisted; I, with trust in God and with the cooperation of the freedom-loving people of Afghanistan, did not leave my country and people, and discharged, within my capability, my duties and responsibilities, enduring all moral and physical pressure. And now, inspired by the endurance and resistance displayed by my country's poor people over the past years, who still endure the unhappiness and hardships of these difficult days, how can a patriot and servant of the people leave their side? [applause]. I would like to reassure you, representatives of the nation, and through you, all Afghan people, that in the future also, in all difficult circumstances and days I will stand by my valiant people and serve my independent country as a son of an independent Afghanistan with patriotic sentiments [applause]. However, if the cause of peace, which is very dear and valuable to me, will require my stepping down I, as I have said many times, am ready to offer even my life for that national cause [applause].

Dear compatriots, you know that recently the Gulf crisis has led to an oil shortage and price rises all over the world. I am fully confident that our patient people will cooperate and symphathize with the government, as in the past, in the delivery and distribution of essential goods.

Dear friends, I will soon lead a delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan to the neighboring friendly country of India, at the invitation of the authorities of that country. The visit, the program of which consists of the expansion of economic, technical, and cultural relations, will play an important role in the further strengthening of our traditional relations. During my visit to India and meetings with the Indian authorities, I will explain the peace-loving stance of the Republic of Afghanistan and will secure the efforts of the leadership of India for the reconstruction of Afghanistan and the peaceful solution of the Afghan problem, which accord with the national interests of Afghanistan and India and all countries of the region. Also, it is hoped that in the near future a delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan presided over by me will participate in the UN's second conference for the least developed countries, to be held in Paris. Taking this opportunity, we will bring to the attention of the people of the world the pain and

misfortunes of the people of Afghanistan are caused by the 12-year war, and will exert maximum efforts to secure all-out and broad international aid for the reconstruction of our war-weary country.

I hope the work of the fifth session of the meli shura of the country ends with brilliant achievement, and I wish health and success to each one of you from God, the lofty [applause]. And success from God.

Bangladesh

Foreign Minister Leaves on Visit to Gulf 28 Aug

BK2808162090 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud left Dhaka today for the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia to discuss the gulf crisis and look into the repatriation problems of Bangladesh nationals trapped in the gulf. He is also likely to visit Iran and Turkey depending on the exigencies after visiting three Middle Eastern countries.

India

Law Minister Goswami Tenders Resignation

Cites Criticism From Assam

BK2808124890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The union minister for law and justice, Mr. Dinesh Goswami, has resigned. Mr. Goswami, who is also holding the portfolio of steel and mines, submitted his resignation to the prime minister in New Delhi today. In his letter, Mr. Goswami said that the National Front government has come under continuous attack in Assam in spite of taking several measures for the welfare of the state. He said whenever he had discussed about the economic development of the state, he had received very positive response. Mr. Goswami said as the state's only representative in the central cabinet, he owns the responsibility for the failure to convince the people of Assam about the sincerity of the center to look after their interest. Mr. Goswami also mentioned that he had informed his party president, Mr. Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, about his decision to resign in Guwahati yesterday. He said he is releasing the copy of his resignation letter to the press to avoid possible speculations.

Premier Rejects Resignation

BK2808151090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The prime minister has refused to accept the resignation of the law and justice minister, Mr. Dinesh Goswami, from the union council of ministers. Mr. Goswami submitted his resignation earlier in the day. An official spokesman told newsmen this evening that Mr. Goswami, who is also holding the portfolio of steel and mines, has been asked to continue.

In his resignation letter, Mr. Goswami has said that the National Front government has been adopting a sympathetic attitude toward the problems of Assam and taking several measures for its development. But despite its positive response, the National Front government has come under continuous attacks from the state. Mr. Goswami said as the state's only representative in the central cabinet, he must take the prime responsibility for the failure to convince the people of the state about the sincerity of the center to look after interests of Assam. Mr. Goswami also has said that the events in the past few months have made it apparent that the people like him have hardly any say in the current political affairs of Assam. Under the circumstances, Mr. Goswami said, he has lost moral right to represent the state in the union cabinet.

A report from Guwahati said the Assam chief minister had requested the prime minister not to accept the resignation of Mr. Goswami. Mr. Mahanta also requested his party colleague Mr. Goswami to withdraw his resignation in the larger interests of the state and its people.

Singh on Border Situation, Air Defense Systems

BK2908031490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] The prime minister has said that the government is continuously monitoring the situation on the borders with Pakistan and the armed forces are fully geared to deal with any eventuality. Addressing the parliamentary consultative committee of the Defense Ministry in New Delhi, Mr. V.P. Singh said there is no cause for alarm over the recent incident on the Jammu and Kashmir border.

Speaking on the important subject of air defense, the prime minister disclosed that necessary exercise has already been started to integrate missiles into the defense forces. He also announced that India will go ahead with the light combat aircraft project, while underlining the need for perseverance in this respect. He said the progressive manufacture of the Indira Radars, communication systems, and a range of missiles within the country would contribute to self-reliance in air defense. The process of modernization and augmentation will continue in all important areas, he added.

Spokesman on Security Forces Operation in Kashmir

BK2808161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, the operation of the security forces has acquired a decisive upper hand over extremist elements during the current month. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that about 240 subversives, including three top JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] leaders, have been arrested so far. Two area commanders of the extremist outfit

Al-Omar and Hizb-ul Mujahidin have been taken into custody, besides 40 Pak-trained militants. Eight groups of Pak-trained infiltrators were intercepted at the border; 38 of them apprehended, 16 killed in encounters.

Defense Employees Arrested for Espionage

BK2908060890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0549 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 29 (AFP)—Indian Special Branch Police have arrested two employees of the Defence Department for allegedly passing military secrets to a Pakistan embassy official here, newspapers reported Wednesday. The two, Kailash Prasad, a clerk in the ministry Quality Control Deparment, and Banu Ram, an employee of the military Secretary's Office, were caught while handing 10 defence related documents to the embassy official on Tuesday, The Hindu daily said.

The Hindu quoted police as saying they believed the two had been passing sensitive information to Pakistan for "four or five years" and that more arrests could be expected in connection with the case. The reports did not identify the embassy official allegedly involved in the hand-over when the men were seized, nor did it say where in New Delhi the arrests took place. The two employees were remanded in police custody until September 7.

Editorial Calls For Strengthening Pakistan Border

BK2808104290 Delhi PATRIOT in English 22 Aug 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Pakistani Provocations"]

[Text] The Pakistan army's heavy artillery attack on Indian posts at three vital mountain passes on the line of actual control in the Kupwara sector in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday has been adequately repulsed, but has left both the Government and the military command extremely wary of Islamabad's intentions. Skirmishes along the border, particularly in the Kashmir sector, are an accepted reality; but this is the first time that Pakistan has brought in heavy artillery shooting deep into Indian territory to soften up the vigilance on the three high passes which are being used by Pakistani intelligence agencies as routes for sending in extremists they have trained in camps within their territory. Going by reports, they have brought in several hundred Kashmir and possibly Punjab terrorists close to the passes and are trying to send them into India before snows close the passes within a few weeks. The diversion may well be for a limited objective such as infiltration of terrorists, but India cannot afford to overlook the possibility of the new regime attempting a military adventure to manipulate the internal political situation or to seek further military assistance from the US which it has enthusiastically joined in the military blockade of Iraq. In the final weeks of her Government, Ms. Benazir Bhutto's statements against India had taken on an increasing stringency as she sought to contain a combination of hostile forces. The Jatoi Government may find it an irresistible compulsion to continue on this course, as it seeks political legitimacy and stability by raising the India bogey, and thus pleasing the army brass which has tacitly supported its installation. The greatest templation for a misadventure across the border is for the army fresh from the Zarbe Momin exercises based on the theory of combat in enemy territory. By rushing troops to the Western alliance against Iraq, Pakistan has refurbished its standing as a frontline state in Washington's strategic reckoning, and can confidently expect the US to resume the massive arms flow which had diminished somewhat in the wake of the quiet on the Afghanistan front. There are few in Pakistan to counsel restraint, and the attraction of short-term gain may well prove too much for those in command, overriding any concern for the disastrous consequences that a war will have for the two countries. In the circumstances, India needs to exercise the greatest vigil to prevent any infiltration of terrorists into its territory and frustrate the efforts to precipitate a showdown.

Border Meeting With PRC Set for 30 Aug

BK2908093390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] The three-day meeting of the Joint Working Group of India and China on the border issue will begin in New Delhi tomorrow. This information was given in the Rajya Sabha today by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral. Answering the main question, he said the government has invited the Chinese premier, Mr. Li Peng, to visit India and the exact dates will be finalized through diplomatic channels. Mr. Gujral expressed the hope that Mr. Li Peng's visit will impart further momentum to improving bilateral relations.

Group To Work Out USSR Cooperation Program

BK2808040490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Government has set up a high-level body to work out long-term trade and economic cooperation program with the Soviet Union in the light of structural changes in the USSR. The move is a direct follow-up of the prime minister's recent visit to Moscow. The commerce minister, Mr. Arun Nehru, will be the chairman of the group which will have as its members the foreign secretary, finance secretary, industrial development secretary, and the special secretary of the prime minister's office. The commerce secretary will be the convener. The group will fix trade targets, examine the joint ventures and coproduction schemes, and suggest measures to achieve the desired improvement in trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Afghanistan's Najibullah Visits New Delhi

Delegation Detailed

BK2808151990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The Afghan president, Dr. Najib, is arriving in New Delhi tonight on a 4-day state visit. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation, including his Foreign

Minister Mr. 'Abdul Wakil, Defense Minister Mr. Watanjar, and four other ministers looking after commerce, industry, civil aviation and health.

Dr. Najib will have one round of official talks with the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, tomorrow. The talks are expected to cover international, regional, and bilateral issues and also Pakistan and the Gulf crisis. His visit assumes significance in the context of increased cooperation between the two countries in several fields.

Arrives 29 Aug

BK2908011490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] The president of Afghanistan, Dr. Najibullah, arrived in New Delhi last night on a three-day state visit. He was received at the airport, among others, by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, and the commerce and tourism minister, Mr. Arun Nehru. Dr. Najibullah is accompanied by a high-level delegation, including the foreign, the commerce, and the finance ministers. During his stay in the capital, he will hold official-level talks with the Indian leaders, in which bilateral issues and matters of international importance are likely to be discussed. Some bilateral agreements are expected to be signed today after the official-level talks between the two sides.

Receives Ceremonial Welcome

BK2908071490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] The president of Afghanistan, Dr. Najib, has expressed the hope that his talks with the Indian leaders in the prevailing conditions will help in strengthening peace and stability in the region and the world at large. Speaking to newsmen after a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] today, Dr. Najib said that the two countries have always been in favor of achieving peace and stability as they uphold the Charter of the United Nations and the policy of nonalignment.

Dr. Najib, accompanied by a high-level delegation, is in the capital on a three-day state visit. He thanked India for the help and assistance his country got in the past and hoped that the same will continue during its period of reconstruction. He expressed the hope that his visit will strengthen bilateral friendly relations and cooperation in economic, technical, cultural, and other fields.

Earlier, Dr. Najib inspected a guard of honor presented by the contingents from the three forces as 21 guns boomed in salute. The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman; the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh; and several union ministers were present.

Speaking to newsmen, the prime minister said that all the countries should follow the principles of nonalignment and noninterference in other's internal affairs to promote peace and stability in the region. He said that President Najib's visit will give further impetus to the bilateral relations and cooperation. Agreements on agricultural research, cultural exchange, and narcotics and drugs will be signed today after the talks.

Meets Venkataraman

BK2908091590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Excerpts] The president of Afghanistan, Dr. Najibullah, has expressed the hope that his talks with the Indian leaders in the prevailing conditions will help in strengthening peace and stability in the region and the world at large. Speaking to newsmen after his ceremonial reception by the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] today, Dr. Najibullah said that the two countries have always been in favor of achieving peace and stability as they follow the Charter of the United Nations and the policy of nonalignment. [passage omitted]

Later, Dr. Najibullah called on the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan today. The meeting, which lasted for about 45 minutes, was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. Welcoming Dr. Najibullah, Mr. Venkataraman said that India is highly impressed with Dr. Najibullah's courage and devotion to peace. Mr. Venkataraman welcomed the forthcoming elections in Afghanistan as a bold step toward democracy.

Thanking Mr. Venkataraman for the kind sentiments, the visiting president said that people in his country highly value the friendship of India. He invited the Indian president to visit Afghanistan.

Delhi Schools Close After Student Agitation

BK2908075890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] The Delhi Administration has announced closure of the schools in the capital indefinitely in view of the agitation on the Mandal Commission report. A spokesman of the administration said in New Delhi today that polytechnics and industrial training institutes will also remain closed indefinitely as a precautionary measure. Earlier, the schools were closed up to Saturday. He said the colleges under the University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and the Jamia Millia [University] have also been advised to close down for a few days.

96-Hour Strike Begins in Assam 28 Aug

BK2808133890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] In Assam, the 96-hour hill area bundh [strike], which began at 0500 today morning, has affected normal life in Karbi Anglong District, while it evoked no response in the North Cachar Hills District. The call for the bundh is jointly given by the Autonomous State Demand Committee and Karbi Students Association.

They are demanding immediate talks with the center for the creation of an autonomous state comprising the two hill districts of Assam.

Akali Party Official Killed in Chandigarh

BK2908065290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] In Chandigarh, the president of the union territory unit of Akali Dal-Badal, Mr. Ranjit Singh Riyar, was shot dead by terrorists this morning. Mr. Riyar was attacked in the premises of a local gurdwara [Sikh temple].

Minister Condemns Oil Blockade by Assam Youths

BK2508130590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, has said that oil blockade by the youth in Assam will only aggravate the problems faced by the country. Addressing the two-day Northeastern Council meeting in Guwahati today, he described the blockade as an irresponsible act worthy of condemnation. He said if every state and region in the country is taken as an isolated identity, it would have serious repercussion on the integrity of the country. The minister pointed out that the current crisis in the Gulf region is causing a great deal of concern, and the increase in the prices of oil is posing a problem. The Northeastern Council meeting will discuss important issues relating to the socioeconomic development of the region.

Minister Discusses Supplying Natural Gas

BK2808121490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The petroleum minister, Mr. M.S. Gurupadaswamy, told the Lok Sabha today that schemes will be drawn up to supply natural gas through pipeline for domestic use in Agartala, Bombay, and Surat. Replying to a question, he said feasibility studies are also being conducted by the gas authority of India for supply of natural gas to some other cities like Delhi, Noida, and Kanpur. The minister said at present natural gas is being supplied as a domestic fuel in Baroda, Broach, Anklesvar, Sibsagar, Duliajan, and Moran. He, however, said it is not feasible to supply LPG [liquified petroleum gas] through pipelines. Replying to a supplementary, the minister said the government is examining the whole issue of (?a price rise) for supply of natural gas through pipelines.

Commentator Reviews Oil Import Situation

BK2508151590 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Commentary by Bhushan Marwah of THE HINDUSTAN TIMES: "The Gulf Crisis and Oil Situation in India"]

[Text] The escalating conflict in the Gulf has aggravated the oil crunch and created a crisis-like situation in the petroleum sector in India. On the one hand, with a further jack-up in international crude prices caused by the Gulf crisis close on the heels of OPEC raising its standard price by three dollars a barrel, India faces a grim prospect of much stiffer oil import bill for the current financial year than envisaged by the planners. On the other hand, as India imports the bulk of its requirements of crude and petroleum products from Iraq and Kuwait, a prolonged disruption of supplies from this region can cause a serious problem.

Of the 18.5 million tons of crude oil during the current financial year, Iraq and Kuwait have contracted to supply 2.25 million tons and 1.5 million tons respectively. Besides, the Soviet Union also supplies 4.5 million tons of crude oil annually to this country. That too, by diverting it from Iraq as a barter deal, India pays the Soviet Union in rupee.

The petroleum minister, Mr. M.S. Gurupadaswamy, stated in the Rajya Sabha this week that of the 8.25 million tons of crude slated for import from Iraq and Kuwait under term contracts during the current financial year, only 3.4 million tons have actually arrived. Efforts are being made to get additional supplies from other sources. Lately, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Malaysia, and Bahrain have assured India of additional crude supplies over and above in terms of contracts signed with them to offset the disruption of oil supplies from Iraq and Kuwait. India is sending teams of officials to these countries to negotiate the quantum of crude to be imported by making purchases from the spot market.

India is also seeking additional supplies of oil from the Soviet Union, Indonesia, Australia, and the United Arab Emirates. Initial response from these countries have indicated that it would be feasible to manage additional crude supplies to offset the impact on the domestic market of the sudden stoppage of Basra crude from Iraq, which was committed to supply 728,000 tons every month.

While the petroleum experts discount any alarming view on the disruption of oil supplies, the country's problems do not end with the procurement of additional crude oil. The government is greatly worried on account of the burgeoning import bill due to a sharp increase in the international crude prices in the wake of the Gulf crisis. Particularly so, when the country's foreign exchange reserves have touched an all-time low.

As the international crude rise is to yet to firm, depending upon many imponderables, it would be premature to precisely figure out the extent of an additional foreign exchange outgo. However, on conservative estimates the Petroleum Ministry is seeking an additional foreign exchange of nearly 300 billion rupees, which would be required even if the imported crude and petroleum products were kept at last year's level when the foreign exchange outgo was 640 billion rupees. Moreover, this estimate is based on the calculation of the crude price at the rate of $21 a barrel. Whereas, the crude price in the international market has already crossed $30 a barrel. The Petroleum Ministry had earlier projected

for the current financial year the import requirement of nearly 90 million tons of crude and 12 million tons of petroleum products, taking into account the normal growth rate in consumption to the tune of seven to eight percent. This estimate, calculated on the basis of the then prevailing crude price of $17 a barrel, required a foreign exchange outgo of 860 billion rupees.

Conservative estimates in the Petroleum Ministry indicate that the projected import bill of 860 billion rupees may have to be revised to 950 billion rupees. Of the 18.5 million tons of crude to be imported during the current year, India has already signed term contracts for 15.5 million tons.

Iran

Majles Speaker Karrubi Demands U.S. Leave Gulf

LD2808182190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The speaker of the Palestine National Assembly [PNA] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid Sa'ih and his accompanying delegation met Majles Speaker Karrubi this morning.

During the meeting the PNA speaker offered his congratulations on the Iraqi acceptance of the 1975 accord and expressed the hope that through the aid of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the liberation of Jerusalem, a day will arrive when the Iranian and Palestinian brothers will pray together in the Grand Mosque. He added: Another threat in addition to that of Israel which is endangering the region is the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf Region, which have occupied holy Islamic lands such as Mecca and al-Madinah.

The Majles speaker then stressed: The destruction of the Zionists is one of the aspirations and goals of the leadership of the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Referring to the presence of U.S. and other Western forces in the Persian Gulf region, Mr. Karrubi said: Since the start of the Islamic revolution, the messages of his holiness Imam Khomeyni always mentioned the American danger. He added: The United States has not come to the region to stop Iraqi aggression; it has other goals including plundering the wealth of the people of the region. He stressed: The United States and all other foreign forces must leave the Persian Gulf Region, and the countries of the region should solve regional problems.

Besharati, Palestinian Delegation Discuss Crisis

LD2808194490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The Palestinian delegation headed by Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, Palestinian National Assembly [PNA] speaker, met Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati today. According to a Central News Unit report, the PNA speaker, in discussing the issue of the liberation of Jerusalem and its connections with the Palestinian issue, said: In addition to the ocupation of Palestine by Israel, Mecca and al-Madinah are currently being threatened by foreign forces, particularly those of the United States. He added: We want the help of the Islamic Republic of Iran to liberate Jerusalem.

Mr. Besharati in turn mentioned the same issues, and said: Love for Palestine is an issue of faith for us, while the issue of Jerusalem and its liberation by Muslims is a religious issue. He added: In the course of solving our differences with Iraq, we are being very honest while still condemning Kuwait's occupation. However, the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf is not aimed at foiling the aggression. Their presence shows their dishonesty. It is necessary for the people of the Persian Gulf region to solve the regional issues.

Editorials, Commentary on Gulf Situation, U.S.

KEYHAN Views Scenarios

LD2808181490 Tehran IRNA in English 1721 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA—The Persian daily KEYHAN Monday and Tuesday printed a political analysis of the situation in the Persian Gulf in light of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, weighing the likelihood of the various possible denouncements of the scenario including a preemptive attack by the United States. The commentary said in part:

The recent developments in the region and conceptions about future events offer several alternatives as likely developments in the future of the Persian Gulf region. They are:

1. An attack by Iraq.
This prediction is unfounded. It lacks strategic value, and will serve only to aggrevate present threats against Iraq, which is true of any sort of attack by Iraq against any country be it a naval attack against the American forces or any attack by employing long- range weapons. Iraq does not stand to benefit from such actions, since such attacks will only push it into a situation which it hates to experience.

All factual evidence shows that Iraq will not engage in an action of that nature. In fact in the beginning if the Iraqis expected such confrontation as they already have with the U.S. forces they would not have occupied Kuwait. Confrontation with the Americans is beyond the expectation of the Iraqis. They judged it unlikely and categorically excluded it as a likely factor.

Even until very recently the Iraqis did not seriously think of that development. It was only after King Husayn's deadlocked talks in the States that the Iraqis sensed some impending danger and distributed western nationals on crucial military and strategic points.

Some tend to think that the Iraqis will postpone a direct military confrontation with the Americans as much as they are able to keep their poise and self-control, whereas no degree of reserve on the part of the Iraqis is likely to ease the external pressure on them. The Iraqis will engage in an attack only when they are left with absolutely no other alternative, or will do so in response to an attack by the Americans.

2. Attack by the U.S.:
That seems a much more likely event, which is supported by published as well as unpublished reports.

As far as the U.S. is concerned it is necessary that the military power of Iraq which is capable of creating imbalance in the region lose some of its potential power in order that the imbalance of power may be somewhat corrected. On that basis we may safely conclude that even though Saddam Husayn should agree to all dictates of the U.N. Security Council the Americans all the same find it necessary to prevent him from saving his head in the present conditions. More important that Saddam Husayn is the extra capacity of the Iraqi armed forces which, in the judgement of the Amreicans, should be spent to drop to a lower level competency for consistency with the armies of other countries in the region. [sentence as received]

In the view of the Americans the best way to attain that goal is to try to do it militarily. The Americans have betrayed their aim even in the tone of their observations on Saddam, and in the manner they have rejected Saddam's suggestions (for a negotiated settlement of the issues which are plaguing the Iraqi Government.)...

From the point of view of military evaluation the Iraqis are hardly likely to be able to resist the air power of the United States...

The question that remains to be answered is whether the Americans will welcome instability as a result of the political collapse of the Iraqi Government. In other words the problem looming ahead is one of finding alternative schemes for the future of Iraq...

3. Iraq's (political) surrender:
That seems to be among the most likely alternatives. The Ba'thists have proved that they are politicians in the machiavelistic sense of the word. Sensing an impending attack by the Americans and finding themselves resourceless for reason of economic sanctions and political pressures they will certainly opt for a new political move in which case they will ultimately agree to pulling out from Kuwait. The course of events lends credibility to the view that the Iraqis will eventually settle for that alternative.

Already they are convinced about the resolve of the United States to engage in a military confrontation and about the potency of its military machinery, and the Iraqis are now running short of their previous devices for making a division in the present political and military stronghold or for generating indecision among the Americans.

Internally the impact of external pressures on Iraq are becoming conspicuous. Perhaps some would think that because of the inescapable consequences at home of troops pull-out from Kuwait the Ba'athists are unlikely to suffer the lost pride of having to evacuate Kuwait, but Saddam is a personality who has demonstrated extra capacity in making political about-faces, and therefore it is possible that when needed he will make such about-face from his own pronounced policies in a manner that the adverse impacts of that move will be nil or at least minimized.

4. Setback by the U.S.:
That is the most improbable of all the various alternatives. In terms of its regional impact a setback by the U.S. means the total unleashing of Iraq and resigning to aggravating imbalance in the region which will be a serious threat to the U.S. interests in the region. In that case the United States will have to see a challenging Iraq in OPEC, the gradual disintegration of Arab states of the Persian Gulf, or their resignation to Iraq's god-fathering influence which means eventual clashing even with the very existence of Israel. That eventuality would be possible only if the americans postpone an ultimate confrontation with Iraq to the least appropriate juncture at which Iraq is most powerful...

The Arab governments of the region do not hesitate to gather round the United States, or at least are gradually stepping down from their previous position of supporting Iraq.

The so-called climate related problems pinching the U.S. troops in the region in the present circumstances should not be over-emphasized for the problem will show only in the event of the active engagement of the armies.

The public opinion in the United States, too, shows similar tendencies. The pressure in the United States resulting from the rising oil prices which acts as the sword of Damocles may nevertheless be utilized toward an intended goal with the aid of the propaganda machinery in that country.

It seems it is in response to the urgencies in the region that the pressure levers in the United States are precipitating a pre-mature confrontation rather than a defusing of tension or setback. The Israeli interests in the United States certainly play a role in it.

With respect to the weight of the argument for each of the above alternatives it seems that alternative 1 or 2 above are more likely than alternative 3 or 4.

Bush Termed 'Hypocritical'

NC2708161490 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 18 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Hostages to American Domestic Politics"]

[Text] What follows is not in the spirit of I-told-you-so, but events of the past weeks and especially this week are poignant vindication of a number of the Islamic Republic's policies and warnings over the last decade.

For those who have witnessed the beginning and now the ending of the Iran-Iraq War, its regional and international implications, one point stays in the mind's eye: the United States is without policy or principle in the Middle East. In addition to that her regional puppets and industrial allies had better take steps to whittle down their dependence on the American presence in this part of the world.

In the wake of Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait we should look back a month shy of a decade and recall a similar invasion of Iran. At the time 52 Americans were being held because the Iranians discovered the American Embassy in Tehran was indeed "a nest of spies". Subsequently, former White House spokesman Jody Powell was to admit that those American detainees were a significant part of Washington's decision to give political support to Iraq's invasion of Iran.

That political support was to evolve into American led sanctions, an arms embargo, CIA inspired assassinations and attempts thereof against the leading figures of the Islamic Revolution and, finally, military action directed at Iran in the Persian Gulf. In essence after Iran was invaded, the U.S. did all in its power to crush the new government.

Had the world community acted according to the United Nations Charter then, the invasion of Kuwait perhaps would not have occurred. But when Iran was violated, the Americans led a tremendous diplomatic and media campaign against the victim. The U.N. was essentially a silent spectator, with the secretary-general offering "good offices" and urging both sides to settle their differences by "peaceful means".

Compare that with the quick and comprehensive American-led action the U.N. took against Iraq. Note how Washington is exploiting the Security Council actions of August 3. Mr. George Bush is attempting to use the U.N. as a front for achieving unquestioned hegemony over the world's energy lifeline.

This is not to say that Iraq's action in Kuwait is not reprehensible. Baghdad should withdraw its troops. But for an American president to pose as a defender of the interests of small sovereign states is hypocritical.

December of 1989 witnessed the American invasion of Panama; the death of more Panamanians than of Kuwaities in the recent invasion and the arrest of Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega. Until 1903 Colombia was a part of Panama. At that point Washington's realization that it needed a strategic waterway at mid-continent to join the Atlantic and Pacific oceans overrode the rights of Colombia's sovereignty.

Washington's security needs also brought into being Taiwan and briefly South Vietnam in a similar fashion. The American role in the creation of Israel and that state's assault on its neighbors' sovereignty all fits a pattern. The point is that for a nation to be a credible defender of the sovereign rights of other nations, it cannot play both sides of the fence to suit its own designs. America fails this test.

All interests parties should scrutinize the paradox currently facing the world: as Iran and Iraq are exchanging POWs today, the American president is readying his warships to forcibly prevent maritime traffic from reaching the port of Kuwait. He is fully prepared to go to war against Iraq, one of merica's most important allies of only two years ago.

From Tel Aviv Jewish-American Congressman Stephen Solarz has warned Iraq of massive destruction if any harm is done to the new American hostages in Kuwait or Iraq. Predictably his comments centered on American resolve to keep oil producing countries from controlling the price of oil and he warned of another round of Arab-Israeli hostilities.

Thus as Iran and Iraq mend fences, the region is poised for another war. There seems to be no face-saving instrument available and it is not expected that Mr. Saddam Husayn will blink or back down under the circumstances.

As for the American side, Mr. Bush is so deeply committed that for him to back-off will become a major domestic political liability. At the same time, the economic blockade of Iraq will probably leak like a sieve; that and the short attention span of the American public makes a protracted stay in Arabia and the Persian Gulf a mine field for the White House.

Mr. Bush finds himself in a position where he will either have to break Iraq or have his own political career ended. The tragedy for the region and the world is that with so many unknowables involved in the outbreak of U.S.-Iraqi hostilities, the international community is now hostage to American domestic political considerations.

U.S. Said Advancing in Gulf

LD2808141890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. At a time when military forces are continuing to be deployed and mobilized throughout the region, comprehensive efforts are being made toward resolving the Persian Gulf crisis, the political aspect of which continues to eclipse all other dimensions. Contrary to this trend, yesterday, Qatar agreed to allow the deployment of foreign forces on its soil. [passage omitted] Prior to Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates had respectively agreed to the deployment of Western troops on their territories, while Oman and Bahrain had placed military facilities at the disposal of the Western countries long before the eruption of the present crisis.

With the decision of the Qatari Government, all the countries in the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [PGCC] now share a similar predicament in terms of the

deployment reached between the United States, the Arab countries, and the PGCC, the host countries will not be in charge of conducting and supervizing the activities of the Western forces. This in terms of political diplomacy, is tantamount to ceding partial political control to a foreign country, which will most certainly be seen as contrary to the interests of the Muslims in the region, and to the independence of those countries.

The creeping advance of the United States toward the occupation of the strategic oil positions in the Arab countries of the region indicates that the West is pursuing a different plan from that of resolving the Kuwaiti crisis.

Along with the mobilization of the Western forces in the region, two other issues—that of the Western hostages in Iraq, and the crisis related to the embassies in Kuwait—are being debated in close relations with the Persian Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

A number of political analysts believe that U.S. President Bush has fallen into a trap, and that he and his Western allies have now been forced to change their priorities in respect of the hostages issue. This has led to a disruption in their plans for resolving the Persian Gulf crisis. One can say that this crisis has at least delayed the possibility of a military encounter for the moement. [passage omitted] In severig all foreign contacts with Kuwait, Iraq is attempting to destroy Kuwait's international credibility.

In addition to the issues of the hostages and the embassies, if we accept the fact that the Persian Gulf region constitutes a source of energy for the Western economy and for the commodities market of those countries, then in view of such sensitivies, one can see that the West does not have the tolerance for uncalculated adventurism. Some deduce that the possibility of war has been lessened for the moment, particularly because the two belligerent sides have not as yet completed all the political stages, and the United States and Iraq still maintain dipolmatic relations.

The majority of political analysts believe that the Kuwaiti crisis should be resolved through diplomacy, and that the protagonists should avoid a military confrontation. The same analysts justify an extensive mobilization of military forces as being a necessary backup toward seeking a political and diplomatic solution. In the shadow of this military power, but without its direct deployment, it is possible to impose one's conditions on the other. Another group of political analysts believe that after a few weeks the United States and Iraq will find themselves in a bottleneck, since the United States, notwithstanding its ability to take military action against Iraq, does not have any clear view as to the consequences of such an action. The same situation also applies to Iraq. It may be that the key to finding a political solution to the crisis is in the protagonists' avoidance of a military confrontation.

Diplomat on 'Danger' of U.S. Bases

LD2808153590 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Athens, Aug. 28, IRNA—The massive use of American military bases in the Mediterranean as supply depots, surveillance and resting stations in the present Gulf crisis signals the threatening role the bases play to the security of the Middle East states. Due to their vicinity to the Middle East, U.S. military bases in Greece and Turkey and the two British bases on Cyprus pose a constant danger to the interests and security of the Muslim states in the region. They form the main route of access from the U.S. and Europe to the Middle East and to the Persian Gulf.

The military bases provide important communication links, staging areas and supply depots for the American and NATO air and naval forces and permits surveillance and monitoring of the activities of the Middle East region.

"The bases in Greece were used to launch air-strike against Libya in the past. Today they are being used for the massive military build-up in the Persian Gulf against Iraq. Tomorrow the target could be another Arab state," an Athens-based Middle East diplomat said.

"Our joint long-term policy should be to convince the Meditterranean states to close down the U.S. bases on their soil. We should offer economic aid and cheap oil for the loss they would suffer by removing them. If they do not agree we should consider imposing economic sanctions," the diplomat, requesting anonymity, stressed.

The U.S. military bases were established in the Medidterranean countries in the fifties in order to deter the so-called Soviet expansionist designs in the region and to protect the U.S. satellite states.

When the British left Cyprus in 1960 they imposed a condition on the Cypriots to let them maintain two military bases there.

But following the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe the threat from the Soviet bloc has naturally receded into the background.

At the time of the East-West detente and end of the cold war, public opposition to the presence of the U.S. military bases has been particularly evident in the Mediterranean area.

The U.S. has now revised its stragegy vis-a-vis its military bases in the region.

Greek political leader Harilaos Florakis says the rearrangement of the bases "serves the overall adaptation of the strategy of the U.S. in its new direction which is the Middle East and oil."

Washington decided to close down a few bases in the Mediterranean which it considered to be redundant, but retained the important ones. Two bases near Athens in Greece were closed, but the U.S. signed a new 8-year

defence accord witht he Greek Government which allows the operation of two large bases in Crete, one of the most strategic points in the southeast Mediterranean. The major base at Souda Bay complex on Crete offers excellent port facilities and an anchorage described as large enough to accomodate the entire sixth fleet. The other base at Gournes is an electronic Surveillance station.

The bases in Crete and Cyprus are serving as crucial jumping-points for the Western forces to the Persian Gulf.

Western press reports said if war broke out, U.S. air strikes from bases in Turkey would hit military and industrial installations inside Iraq. Turkish President Turgut Ozal once said "Turkey plays a very crucial role in the defense of Western Europe and constitutes an important element of stability in the Middle East as well."

The U.S. bases in Turkey of course play the major role in the implementation of its policies towards the region.

Warning Against U.S. Action

PM2808154490 Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 22 Aug 90 pp 5, 25

[Editorial by political editor: "The Persian Gulf Crisis From Our Point of View"]

[Text] With the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq a new crisis has been created in the Persian Gulf region, and it is difficult to forsee its outcome or its consequences. Keeping in mind the military presence of the United States and its allies as well as the two sides'—the United States and Iraq—insistance on keeping their declared interests and positions, one could be concerned about the future and one could feel danger from the existing fragile situation. Of course, Iraq and those who support the previous regime ruling Kuwait all look toward the Persian Gulf in terms of their own interests. If we were to look at these events in terms of values and the interests of the Islamic revolution, of course, we would reach different conclusions.

1. The Iraqi regime has an aggressive nature. If he has the facilities and military might and, if the conditions are right, Saddam will definitely attack this or that neighbor. Therefore one can be sure that the Ba'th party ruling Iraq has been and will continue to be a cause of tension in the Persian Gulf.

2. During Saddam's aggression against Iranian soil, because of the opposition of the Western countries and the reactionary Arab governments toward the Islamic revolution, a cover was thrown over the aggressive nature of Saddam. He was supported in all sorts of ways, in terms of military, economic, political and propaganda assistance. Of course it is natural that this aggressive tendency would not only be used against the Islamic Republic, but that it would soon affect past supporters and yesterday's allies.

3. Iraq, the regional nations and most of all the Western countries and the current rulers of the world have proven that they neither have "friends" nor do they have "enemies." Their "interests" are the only principles guiding their political decisionmaking. It is also clear that they are not bound by any laws or morals. This is why one should not be fooled by the slogans from both sides and one should not confuse or make a mistake about war over one's "interests" and war over "values." Iraq is as far away from anti-American and anti-Israeli principles as the United States is from slogans on freedom, justice and struggle against aggression.

4. The West has two stances toward Iraq. On the one hand it needs its show of power to counter the Islamic revolution in Iran and on the other hand Saddam's power, even though it may cause friends temporary losses, is in the final analysis in the long-term interest of the West. In this confusion on the part of the Western policies, Saddam thought it would be possible to attack Kuwait and make it a part of Iraq and this is what he is now insisting on. If the governments and the superpowers of the world had not thought about their losses and gains during the Iraqi invasion of Iran and if they had confronted that aggression, the Kuwaiti invasion would not have occured now. Of course then Washington would not have had the chance to show aggression, which is something that it favors.

5. The Islamic Republic, in its foreign policy, supports certain legal principles and values and this is why it has condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. This is despite the positions taken by the previous rulers of Kuwait against the Islamic revolution. Even the acceptance of the 1975 Algiers Accord by the Iraqi government will not make any difference in Iran's policies and the Islamic Republic of Iran will, under any condition, ask for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from Kuwaiti soil.

6. The activity within the UN Security Council with regard to the invasion of Kuwait, despite the direct effects of U.S. policy on the Council, is worth thinking about. It has brought about tremendous cooperation from other governments throughout the world.

However, this type of activity is only acceptable if it is perpetual and universal and if it is not undertaken with regard to the superpowers' interests. Finally, it should not create the background for fresh aggression and interference into the fate of other nations by the superpowers. It is for these same reasons that we believe that if it is necessary to go beyond an economic blockade, military sanctions and a boycott of Iraqi oil, the United Nations should make a fresh decision. It should then form a multinational force, in which the United States can have a role like all the other countries involved, to complete a naval blockade of Iraq. That way, in addition to putting pressure on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, it would prevent others taking advantage of the situation.

7. Countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar and so forth, by inviting the United States to protect them from a possible invasion by Iraq, have proven that they have no roots, that they are far apart from their peoples, that instead of relying on a regional solution, they have depended on the military might of superpowers such as the United States. Even though these governments are now suffering the consequences of their past shameful behavior, we are sure that the fire which they have started by inviting the United States to the region will eventually burn them too. Sooner or later they will also suffer the consequences of their current actions. Perhaps the military and manpower resources at the disposal of these nations prevent them from confronting Iraq's aggression, but under such conditions, in additions to gaining support from the rest of the world, one must also seek regional cooperation and one must avoid the military presence of foreign powers that are enemies of the Muslim masses, who wish to control the resources of the region.

8. While controlling the oil resources of the region, the United States also intends to gain complete control over Muslim nations and governments. While controlling Saddam, they thought of confronting the Islamic movements, so all in all a foreign military presence is to the disadvantage of the Islamic revolution and the region's countries. This is why we want a simultaneous withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and all foreign forces from the area. We think anything other than this, is to the disadvantage of the Muslims of the Persian Gulf.

9. Finally, when Iraq gave up on support from the West, it agreed to meet the just demands of the Islamic Republic. We regard this as a major step toward realizing Resolution 598. Even though we are sure this step is worth debating as a short-term Iraqi policy, we hope that Iraq will act the same way toward Kuwait—by pulling out its forces, we hope it will lessen the tension in the area.

10. By expanding the crisis and with the situation getting worse, there is more chance of hostilities. Controlling the spread of such hostilities cannot be predicted. Even though military gestures from both sides are basically to prove that they are both serious about their announced positions, without a doubt the first shot fired will engulf the entire region in flames. Will the west agree to this? It seems that Iraq has little leverage and will have no choice but to leave Kuwait. It is also very possible that there may be a compromise.

11. While emphasizing the UN Security Council resolution concerning an Iraqi blockade, Iran rejects any military move. It believes that if there is general and all-out cooperation between governments, Iraq can be forced to move out of Kuwait. At the same time it seems that the United States with its latest moves is not just thinking about an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, but rather has long-term plans to control the region and its resources. If that is the case the Persian Gulf will not see peace and quiet in the future. The anger of the Muslim people of Iran and other countries will engulf the US forces. Of course on that day countries such as Saudi Arabia will be the first ones to regret extending an invitation to the Americans.

U.S. Objectives in Gulf Viewed

NC2808194190 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 11 Aug 90 pp 2, 12

[Editorial by Darestani Farahani: "The West and the Military Scenario of the Kuwaiti Crisis"]

[Excerpt] The extensive presence of the multinational forces spearheaded by the United States in the Persian Gulf region, which is being termed unprecedented since World War II, raises this basic question: What are the actual objectives of these forces in the region?

U.S. President George Bush announced last Wednesday that the objectives are:

1. Ensuring Saudi Arabia's safety.
2. Preservation of the legal government (the al-Sabah family) in Kuwait.
3. Ensuring the safety of the Persian Gulf.
4. Crushing the aggression and saving the lives of the Americans in Iraq and Kuwait.

These objectives announced by Bush indicate that the deployment of U.S. forces in the region are to support the U.S. intention of becoming involved in a military confrontation in the region. Let us review the possibilities connected with such a confrontation. There can be three suppositions:

A. The forces stationed in the region (including the warships and air and land forces) are to enforce the economic siege of Iraq, so that beleaguered Iraq will face serious domestic problems in a few months. Ultimately Saddam will be forced to accept the Arab League proposals to evacuate Kuwait and to content himself with some minimal concessions such as being allowed to station his forces in the Bubiyan and Warbah islands, and absolving Iraq from paying its debts to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

However, an assessment of the current trend in the crisis indicates that, even if the above scenario is accepted by Iraq, it would not be acceptable to the United States. This is because, even if in the present circumstances Iraq can extricate itself with the acceptance of these minimal concessions, the Damoclean sword of Saddam will continue to hang over the heads of the Shaykhs of the region—which will be tantamount to the acceptance of Iraq's domination over the Arab world and OPEC.

B. In a coordinated plan, a series of consecutive attacks from Turkey, Syria, and Saudi Arabia against Iraq with extensive air support will ensure the advance of these forces into Iraqi territory.

In such a case, the military forces in the region will play an important role, but the key to the success of the scenario will be extensive coordination between the

operational forces and the speed with which the operations are carried out toward Iraq's strategic targets such as Kirkuk, Basra and Baghdad.

C. The multinational forces stationed in the region and their warships in the Persian Gulf can launch an amphibious attack from Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf in order to drive the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, at an opportune moment, as Iraq will have already been weakened immensely by the economic and trade embargoes. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Withdrawal From Kuwait Urged

LD1208134690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 12 Aug 90

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At the moment, the Arab world is facing a dangerous crisis as a result of its growing internal differences caused by the illegal occupation of Kuwait.

Under the pretext of Iraqi aggression and based on an invitation from the rulers of Saudi Arabia, the United States has expanded its military and political intervention in the region, and is trying to secure control and influence over the region's energy resources which feed the world economy at present and in the future.

On the other hand, according to informed sources, the United States, under the pretext of supporting the house of Al Sa'ud regime, is trying to further apply its policies for control of the two holy shrines and using that control to strengthen its policies in the region. In fact, Iraqi threats to the Saudi rulers have paved the way for U.S. intervention in the region for the second time in the past four years, and have confronted the Arabs with further threats of discord and neglect of the Zionist danger.

Informed political sources believe that this Iraqi action is the main cause of the crisis and U.S. intervention in the region. A solution to the crisis can be found only in the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Repercussions of Gulf Crisis

LD1308144190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1054 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Greetings, dear listeners. Following the U.S. announcement that it will block the passage of all oil tankers carrying Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil, it now seems that Washington has in effect taken a step toward military confrontation with Iraq. The Kuwaiti Government had previously asked the United States to blockade Iraq. In a fierce reaction, the Iraqi Government immediately condemned the U.S. decision on the possibility of attacking its tankers, describing it as a hostile act.

Notwithstanding the fact that the UN Security Council had already sanctioned the imposition of an economic embargo against Iraq and a ban on any imports from and exports to that country, now the United States, under the pretext of a so-called official request from Kuwait, intends to enact this economic blockade.

The possibility of a military confrontation between Iraq and the United States or even the Egyptian forces based in Arabistan [Saudi Arabia], intensified when Saddam put forward his plan for the resolution of the crisis yesterday. [passage omitted]

In view of the complexity of the situation in the Middle East, political analysts believe that Saddam's proposals were set out as a means of buying himself more time. Aware of popular sensitivites to the Palestinian issue, and/or the deployment of U.S. troops in Arabistan, he attempts to exploit popular wishes to his advantage. Moreover, in his plan, by being elusive he avoided any mention of the issue of the future sovereignty of Kuwait, and/or the annexation of that country to Iraq. Despite the old proverb which says: taking a big stone indicates that one does not intend to use it—in other words, Saddam knows that his conditions will not be realized at present, even if we assume that various withdrawals will take place—it is necessary to alter many of the equations in the Middle East, especially with regard to Palestine, Lebanon, and Kuwait. Apart from the fact that such alterations seem to be highly difficult under the present circumstances, and in view of the dependence of a number of governments in the region on the foreign forces, these alterations also require a long period of time—long enough to give an air of normality to the occupation of Kuwait and its annexation to Iraq, and its ensuing problems will gradually be forgotten.

Analysts also believe that Saddam knows better than anyone that his plan will not be realized. However, alongside his deployment of military strategy, he attempts to portray himself as one open to political initiatives and that it is possible to end the present crisis through peaceful means. Moreover, he attempts to exploit the inflamed sentiments of Muslims in the region with regard to the deployment of U.S. forces in the region, and their general hatred of the United States and its allies, so as to establish a popular base for himself and to exert pressure on the United States and the West in terms of public opinion, and in so doing diminishing the possibility of any military intervention by them against Iraq.

Amid all this, it should not be forgotten that the military occupation of Kuwait, followed by its annexation to Iraq, has widened the concept of violation which had hitherto been confined to the Israeli regime, by Arab governments thus bringing that regime out of isolation. In addition, this attack has served to further consolidate ties between the United States and Israel, for the present pushing the issue of Palestine and the uprising of that territory's Muslim inhabitants into oblivion. Also, the main factor providing the United States with the pretext to deploy a multinational force on Saudi territory, is that

of Iraq's military action against Kuwait; an action which has caused such factionalism and discord among the Arab governments that they have been forced to avoid remarks regarding Arab unity, joint defensive pacts, or regional organizations for a while.

Failure of Regional Alliances

NC1908165490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 7 Aug 90 p 3

[M. Firuzi commentary: "A Dangerous Game—How Safe Will It Be After This?]

[Text] Iraq's all-out invasion of small, defenseless Kuwait pitted a well-trained army which obtained at least some of its modern weapons with Kuwaiti dollars, against a small army, leaving no choice for little Kuwait but to surrender. Even though it is still too early to talk about the ultimate outcome in Kuwait, but what can be said is that Saddam has this time started a very dangerous game whose outcome will be unlike that of his aggression in Sept. 1980 against Iran. In that war there was no victor but this time a stalemate seems unthinkable.

This time Saddam will most probably be completely isolated or even toppled. But in case he stabilizes his army in Kuwait, which seems very difficult, he will achieve his second aim, i.e. to become gendarme of the Persian Gulf.

What is important there is the unsuccessful attempts of the regional unions in solving the regional crisis. This lack of success has gone so far today that the fate of the three regional alliances is under threat.

The first and biggest regional alliance is the Arab League, which is today passing some of its worst days. It is the first time that an Arab country is occupied by another Arab country and despite the explicit aggression against a small Arab country, which should have been defended by other Arab states, the Arab League is not capable even of practical diplomatic move, let alone a joint military action.

Another regional alliance which has been seriously damaged is the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (P) GCC. In 1981 following Iraq's invasion of Iran, the leaders of six southern Perian Gulf countries set up this coalition primarily for confronting the Islamic Revolution and later for filling the power vacuum in the Persian Gulf. The joint defense pact, which was among the alliance's definite principles has been violated today. One (P) GCC country has been occupied by a foreign country without other members showing any reaction.

Today the (P) GCC has nothing to say and there is no reason for its continued existence any longer.

The third regional coalition set up recently is the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] comprising Egypt, Yemen, Jordan and Iraq which established at 1989. From the very beginning of its creation it was clear that this pact was not very durable due to the temporary interests and aims of the above countries and due to the existence of internal contradictions among the economic and political systems of its members.

Today Egypt, as the largest member of the ACC, stands against Iraq, posing the serious danger of dissolution of the council.

Thus it can be said that regional coalitions in the Middle East due to the particular economic, social and political structures of the member countries and the critical situation of the region, are not very durable.

King Fahd's 'Strategic Error'

NC2008162890 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 11 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "An Unwelcome Intruder"]

[Text] In the life of puppet regimes a time also comes when they are forced to publicly discard the masks that cover their true identity. It is a question of survival, the continuation of unpopular and authoritarian rule, and taking by force that which belongs to others. The kingdom of Saudi Arabia this week embarked on an unprecedented task in the most volatile part of the world. By allowing a massive military presence of American troops on Muslim territory, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has made a strategic error. If this logic is based on banking on the so-called multinational forces to keep the Al Sa'ud clan in power, it can be called a doomed effort. In Washington's thinking things just don't work like this.

When the now deposed al-Sabah family in Kuwait decided to put the Stars and Stripes on its oil tankers in July 1987, it had dug its own grave. Within three years of inviting the Americans to protect Kuwaiti oil exports, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah lost his throne. In the present climate of the Persian Gulf region there is absolutely no guarantee how long King Fahd will last as the ruler of Hejaz after his unwanted guests leave.

U.S. President George Bush is in the habit of repeating that the presence of his troops in this part of the world is only to defend Saudi Arabia from Iraqi attack. Baghdad has declared that Kuwait belongs to Iraq and that it is not interested in invading Saudi Arabia. Of course no right-minded person will believe President Saddam Husayn, but it is equally true that the U.S.-led Western bloc is the least interested in the political survival of the puppet states.

During the eight-year war between Iraq and Iran, Western nations with a naval presence here made no secret of their intention to protect the free flow of oil to industrialized economies. The Islamic Republic of Iran was not oblivious to the fact that the presence of foreign forces was never related to regional peace and stability. What the major power were saying then was true. Defending the West's economic interests, averting the collapse of Ba'thist dictatorship and checking the growing influence of Iran's Islamic Revolution, were the

three fundamental reasons why foreign navies came to this region in the first place. Results? Western economic and military experts know better.

Under no condition can the presence of U.S. troops on Arabian territory be justified. If Iraq's Kuwaiti invasion deserves condemnation of the highest order, the presence of foreign troops and their intervention in regional conflicts has no legal basis and should be opposed in every possible manner. Despite the historic differences between littoral states, there do exist options and Arab compromise formulas that can be thrashed out without inviting foreign interference.

In the past Iraq and Kuwait laid the groundwork for outside intervention in the Persian Gulf conflict and paid a very heavy price for that mistake. Now Saudi Arabia has volunteered to bring destruction on itself. The Al Sa'ud family is free to bring about its own end, but the problem does not end there. Entry is linked to the host's permission, exit is a different matter. No rational purpose to the good of the region will be served by the presence of outsiders so close to the world's most strategic oil reserves.

Saddam rained humilation on the entire concept of Arab unity. By virtually destroying the emirate of Kuwait within a period of less than a week he proved once again that aggression is the foundation of Ba'th party rule. That nature was encouraged, reinforced and saluted during the war years by the same countries now out to end the life of the Iraqi dictaor.

Saddam often declared he fought against Iran to contain the Islamic Revolution and save Arab regimes from imminent collapse. Everything was put at his disposal. His takeover of Kuwait is a product of the ill-fated anti-Iran Arab policy. It has now become known that in his desperation for power and leadership of the Arab world, Saddam recognizes no frontiers, laws or regulations. He dealt the severest blow on whatever remained of Arab solidarity with the August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The dangerous unfolding of events in the region during the past week brought some long-awaited confessions from Saddam's former allies. Officials in Washington, Paris and London admitted that throughout the Iran-Iraq war years their respective countries played important roles in aiding Baghdad's war machine. The formidable power so aggressively displayed by Saddam Husayn would be non- existent if Western powers and the Soviet Union had not assisted his lawless cruelty for the past 10 years. Now the world is being told that the U.S. and allies might have to resort to Cruise missiles and immense firepower to dislodge President Husayn from tiny Kuwait.

For eight years, Iran's Muslim combatants faced the invading Iraqi forces amidst revolutionary upheavals and broad international sanctions against the newly born republic. Since the mid-1980s, and in order to tilt the balance of power in favor of Iraq, the U.S. did everything in its power to boost Baghdad's image and harm Tehran's position on the international scene. Saddam's Iraq was introduced as a peace-loving nation and the Islamic state a backward and radical country involved in the practice of state terrorism!!

It is the same balance of power Saddam has tilted so violently today that has even the Western alliance reluctant to check the situation, fearing strong retaliation from Iraq's one-million strong battle-hardened army. Amid all the analysis, news and views about Saddam's latest adventure and U.S. troop deployed in Iran's neighborhood, there is deep cause for concern over Tehran's position vis-a-vis American actions. In the decade following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iran has consistently condemned U.S. arrogance, its imperialist plots and hostile presence in different parts of the world especially, near its own borders. Iran and its Muslim masses have suffered untold harm at the hands of American forces in the Persian Gulf. It is because of their hostile presence and blind policy that the region is subjected anew to the dangers of full- fledged war. Can the region's biggest country and its policy-makers afford not to address the foreign troops deployment and the threat it poses to the sovereignty and integrity of Muslim states?

Yemeni Foreign Affairs Official Arrives

Welcomed by Velayati

LD2808171390 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA—The Yemeni Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali arrived here this afternoon and was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Al-Dali who arrived here from Sharja, is carrying a message from the Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih for his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The Yemeni foreign minister is due to leave here Wednesday and before departure is expected to be received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He will discuss the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region with Iranian officials.

Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2908111990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs of the Republic of Yemen.

Mr. al-Dali submitted at this meeting—which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati—a message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to our country's president. Bilateral issues and ways of expanding relations between the two countries and the latest developments in the Persian Gulf crisis were discussed at this meeting.

Velayati Addresses Afghan Mujahidin in Tehran

LD1108191490 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 11 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11 IRNA—A gathering of the jihad commanders of Western Afghanistan ended its work here Friday afternoon by calling on various Afghan groups to set aside their factional disputes and form a united front. In a 14-article resolution, the assembly underscored the importance of continuation of armed struggle by a united front composed of all jihad forces until the fall of the subservient regime in Kabul and formation of an Islamic government in that country.

It also rejected any political decision about Afghanistan approved by the superpowers but contradicting the will of the Afghan nation. The participants called on the United Nations not to make hasty decisions on Afghanistan and stop repatriation of Afghan Muslim people until the situation is appropriate.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in his speech at the concluding ceremony said that the future government of Afghanistan should be democratic and based on islamic principles. Condemning disputes between Shia and Sunni Muslims, Velayati said that the Afghan people should preserve and strengthen their unity in order to triumph in their campaign.

Stressing that Iran cannot be indifferent towards the destiny of Afghanistan he added that Iran will remain beside the Afghan nation in future. Meanwhile, advisor to the chief of staff of the armed forces General Ali Asghar Jamali said that the armed forces of the Islamic Republic is ready to help the Afghan mujahideen both from training and logistic points of view upon the orders of the leader and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i. He said that the Afghan people must pay due attention to military training, discipline and obeying of orders from their commanders in order to gain final victory.

Velayati Welcomes Venezuelan Counterpart on Visit

LD1308112790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Mr. Planchart, the Venezuelan foreign minister, arrived in Tehran this afternoon for a short visit. He was welcomed by Mr. Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs. According to a reporter, the Venezuelan foreign minister is in Tehran to discuss the effects arising from the decrease in OPEC oil supplies as a result of military action in the Arabic region of the Persian Gulf, and the manner in which the organization's members will react with respect to the issue of OPEC oil production quotas.

The Veneuzeulan foreign minister, who met with Arabian officials in Jeddah before coming to Iran, will leave for Algeria for similar talks after holding discussions with the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials. According to the report, the recent OPEC session in Geneva made it incumbant on the organization's member countries, at the highest levels of government, to abide by the assigned oil production quotas. However, Arabia has the aim of increasing its oil production to a level over its assigned quota in order to compensate for the loss of Kuwait oil production and the reduced supply of Iraqi oil.

According to the same report, a number of OPEC member countries have in recent days stressed the need for observing commitments with regard to quotas, and have stressed that the decreased oil supply in the short term can be provided from oil reserves stocked in consumer countries. A change in oil production by OPEC members requires prior coordination by the organization's member countries.

In an interview with reporters on arrival in Tehran, the Veneuzelan foreign minister said that he has a message from the Venezuelan president for Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and that during his visit he will hold talks with our country's foreign and oil ministers about the current oil situation of OPEC member countries, and about the issue of oil production. The Venezuelan foreign minister said that his country has not increased its oil production, and he believes that any unilateral action by oil producing countries will harm the market. He said that he had spoken to Saudi Arabian officials in this connection, and that after holding talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials, he will hold talks with Algerian and Nigerian officials and authorities about the means of confronting the current critical situation.

Kharrazi Meets Perez de Cuellar in New York

LD2908083290 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, Aug. 29, IRNA—Iran's United Nations envoy Kamal Kharrazi met with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar here Tuesday [28 August] and discussed issues related to the Resolution 598 and the Persian Gulf developments. De Cuellar told the Iranian permanent representative that he was pleased with the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from the Iranian territories and repatiration of prisoners of war.

He said he was ready to discuss following up of other articles of the resolution in his meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Amman on Thursday. Kharrazi again reiterated Iran's commitment to the resolution and De Cuellar's role in this respect.

He also briefed De Cuellar on Iran's move in opening its borders to foreigners stranded in Kuwait and Iraq and providing them with transit facilities. He asked the secretary general to open an office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refguees (UNHCR) in Ahvaz, southwestern province of Khuzestan, to provide facilities for incoming foreigners.

Spokesman on Iraqi Occupation of Iran

LD1308173990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Ministry spokesman Sarmadi responded to the recent statement by the Iraqi president concerning conditions for withdrawal from Kuwait. The spokesman said: The Islamic Republic of Iran, after accepting UN resolution 598, immediately withdrew from Iraqi soil to the international border. However, since that period, part of the soil of the Islamic Republic of Iran, despite UN resolution 598 and international norms, is still under occupation by Iraqi forces. He added: Relating the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Iran to other international affairs is not in accordance with accepted international norms and does not indicate Iraq's claimed sincerity in adherence to UN Security Council resolution 598.

Red Cross Asked To Help Citizens in Kuwait

LD1308200490 Tehran IRNA in English 1739 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry Spokesman [Morteza Jardami] today said that linking the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Iran to other international issues corresponded neither to international norms nor to Iraq's alleged commitment to the U.N. Resolution 598. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the status of Iranian people residing in Kuwait, Sarmadi said since Kuwait's communications with the outside world have been cut off there was no immediate information on their situation. He called on the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to take necessary measures to secure the safety and property of Iranian nationals and their families living in Kuwait. Sarmadi urged ICRC to inform Iran's Foreign Minisltry of the condition of Iranian nationals in Kuwait and to provide facilities for each of them willing to return to Iran, as a humanitarian act.

Foreigners Enter After Border Opening 26 Aug

LD2808112290 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Aug. 28, IRNA—A group of Filipinos stranded in Kuwait since its occupation by Iraq on August 2, arrived in Iran through the southern Shalamceh border Monday [27 August]. Earlier a group of 100 nationals of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan arrived through the same border while another 230 Pakistani crossed into Iran via Turkey through Serou [name as received] border, northwest of the country.

Last Sunday Iran said it will provide transit falicities for foreign nationals stranded in Kuwait and Iraq. Some 200,000 foreign nationals are expected to arrive in Iran from Kuwait on transit basis, an official told IRNA.

Meanwhile, an informed source told IRNA that since the opening of Shalamcheh border with Iraq, more than 60,000 Iranian and foreign nationals have entered into the country by private cars and other vehicles.

An Iranian national, Ahmad Salehi-Zadeh, who returned from Kuwait Monday afternoon through Shalamcheh border told IRNA that shooting can still be heard from some quarters in Kuwait and that some Kuwaiti youths occasionally attack Iraqi forces. He added that Kuwaiti shopkeepers refuse to accept Iraqi dinars.

Further on POW Returnees, Exchanges

LD2808081490 Tehran IRNA in English 0621 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA—A new batch of 910 freed POWs arrived home Monday [27 Aug] night through Khosravi border point, western Iran, a report said here early Tuesday morning. The latest arrivals bring the total number of the POWs exchanged since August 17 to 32,110.

After the number of the released POWs dropped to 700 on Sunday, the foreign ministry officials of Iran and Iraq held negotiations in Khosravi area on exchange of the remaining POWs. Subsequently, Iraq and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) agreed to take measures for the release of 1,000 Iranian POWs per day starting Tuesday.

Soldiers 'Missing in Action' Return From Iraq

LD2808143290 Tehran IRNA in English 1312 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Bakhtaran, Aug. 28, IRNA—The first group of 1,000 unregistered Iranian POWs, arrived here through Khosravi border region Monday night [27 August]. They are those whose names had not entered the Red Cross lists, and were termed as those missing in action. Iraq called on the Red Cross on Monday to register the Iranian POWs, and 2,000 of them are to be registered and sent to Iran every day.

Iran had previously announced names of almost all Iraqi POWs to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Iraqi withdrawal from the Iranian soil and exchange of POWs began on August 17, when Iraq accepted the 1975 border accord with Iran. Officials of the two countries have agreed to exchange daily 2,000 [figure as received] POWs until the release of the last POW.

Second Group Arrives

LD2908082590 Tehran IRNA in English 0738 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Khosrawi, Bakhtaran Prov., Aug. 29, IRNA—The second batch of the Iranian prisoners of war arrived at this border point Tuesday evening bringing to 1,910 the

number of the POWs freed in the second stage of repatriation started Tuesday morning.

The group was handed over to the Iranian officials under the supervision of representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). This is the second group of pows exchanged following Sunday talks of Iran-Iraq deputy foreign ministers on repatriation of unregistered pows.

Experts Assembly Election Schedule Outlined

LD1308104790 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug 13, IRNA—Nationwide elections for the second term of the Assembly of Experts will be held on October 8, the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him], said Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri here Monday. Speaking at a press conference here, he added that his ministry will make the arrangements for the elections and that the candidate well be given two weeks time to register with the ministry as of August 28.

Eligibility of the candidates will be studied by the jurisprudent members of the Guardians Council, Nuri told reporters. The ministry will release the list of those qualified to run in the elections on September 29. The candidates are allowed to run an election campaign from September 30-October 6.

The elections, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri said, would be based on the recent changes made in the regulations of the Assembly's elections. Under the previous procedure, the number of the representatives of the Assembly had to be increased to 98 in the second term, however, according to the recent approvals, the number will remain 83.

Nuri told reporters that since the holy city of Qom now comes under the Tehran province, one representative will be deducted from the central province and added to Tehran Province. Under previous division Qom was part of the central province.

He said that all Iranian citizens of 15 years age can vote in the elections. In the forthcoming elections province of Tehran will have 15 members, Khorasan eight, East Azerbaijan seven, Mazandaran six, Esfahan, Khuzestan and Fars five each, Gilan four, West Azerbaijan, Zanjan, Kerman and Lorestan three each, Bakhtaran, Sistan va Baluchstan, Kordestan, Central and Hamadan two each, and Ilam, Bushehr, Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari, Semnan, Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmadi, Hormozgan and Yazd one each.

Trade Delegation Returns From Talks in Turkey

NC2008204690 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] An Iranian delegation composed of several members of the Islamic Majles and officials from Iran's eastern and western Azerbaijan provinces has returned from Turkey after holding talks with the governor of Erzurum and leading officials of the chamber of commerce in that city on ways of upgrading border trade between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey. A request was put forward during the talks for the mutual lifting of a number of customs duties with a view to facilitating border trade between the businessmen of the two countries.

Transport Agreement Signed

LD1808103690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Our country's minister of roads and transport, who travelled to Ankara to participate in the fourth Iran-Turkey road and transport ministerial session, returned to Tehran this evening.

On his return, in an interview with our correspondent, he announced: Obstacles pertaining to the issuance of transit permits to Iranian trucks crossing to Turkey have been removed. From now on, over 9,000 transit permits will be issued two months before the end of each year. Mr. Sa'idi-Kia, the minister of roads and transport, added: In that session, the warehousing of the Islamic Republic of Iran's goods in Turkey and the recommencement of transport via rail link were discussed by the two countries, following which an agreement was reached on the transport of goods and passengers between Tehran and Istanbul in the next three to four months as a preliminary and experimental step.

Also in that session, it was agreed that Turkey should have three weekly flights to Tehran, and that 747 Homa [Iranian air company] aircraft should transport passangers between Iran and Turkey to full capacity.

On the basis of the same report, the deputy minister of roads and transport and head of our country's meteorological organization, who had also travelled to Turkey as part of the delegation, told our correspondent that agreements were reached on the exchange of information and experts as well as joint research activities between Iran and Turkey.

Seminar on Asia, International Developments Opens

LD2708174590 Tehran IRNA in English 1404 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA—A seminar on Asia and international developments opened here Monday with a speech by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Velayati's inaugural speech focused on the effects of the coming to power of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow on the developments in Asia, the defeat of the U.S. in Vietnam, emergence of Japan as an economic power and revival of Islam.

He termed normalization of Moscow-Beijing ties, improvement in the atmosphere prevailing in the negotiations between the two Koreas, the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea, of Soviet forces

from Afghanistan and of Iraqi troops from Iran as "positive developments" in recent years.

The seminar was held at Foreign Ministry's institute for political and international studies and attended by a group of foreign diplomats in Tehran and high ranking Iranian political and military officials.

Abbas Maleki, deputy foreign minister for research and educational affairs told the audience that economic, political and cultural cooperation among Asian countries, their efforts to set up regional common markets, and joint investments in development plans were the only way of defusing tension in Asia.

Alaeddin Boroujerdi, Velayati's deputy for Asia and Pacific said that economic poverty, the wide gap among Asian states, territorial disputes and regional crises have all added to the sensitivity of the continent. He said the pull out of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and of Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea, efforts to defuse tension between China and the Soviet Union and the negotiations between the two Koreas were all a prelude to massive economic, social and political cooperation in the continent. "These developments indicate that the peoples of Asia are switching from a military solution to a political one," Boroujerdi said.

Mohammad Javad Larijani, an advisor to the foreign minister in his remarks described the U.S., Europe, Japan and the Soviet Union as the "four poles of the world in late 20th century." Larijani said some politicians such as British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher divided the world into the three blocs of U.S. dollars, Deutschemark and Japanese yen. The Soviet Union has no place in these divisions. "They think that the collapse of Marxism means the distintegration of the Soviet Union but the Soviet Union after passing a period of convalescence is now moving towards potency," he said.

In its traditioanl relations with the U.S., Europe was distancing itself from that country and approaching the Soviet Union and on the other hand the U.S. would have to concentrate its strategy on controlling Europe and making good on its diminishing influence, he said. Elsewhere in his speech, Larijani forecast a hard future for the satellites of the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

He also foresaw that in the future China would reach a state of equilibrium and feel secure, India would have insecurity and in Latin America the state of the Soviet Union's satellites would be disastrous. The foreign minister's advisor added that with militarization of Japan, security would be felt less in the pacific ocean and the Islamic republic would feel more secure.

Paper Urges Unity Among Afghan Mujahidin

NC1908162490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 12 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Unity Is the Only Way for the Realization of Ideals"]

[Text] A meeting of commanders of western Afghanistan's Jihad groups ended last night by issuing a 16-point resolution. The 12th article of this resolution calls on the Mujahidin to maintain unity among themselves, whether Shiite or Sunni.

The meeting follows in the wake of a recent meeting of the U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers in Siberia in which they discussed the issue of Afghanistan and stressed on holding a referendum in this country for bringing about necessary changes.

According to the Superpowers' accord the present regime of Najibullah is supposed to hold elections and all parties to the conflict should accept the referendum, thus making the presence of the current regime in the future government of Afghanistan inevitable.

Meanwhile, monarchist and liberal forces who were part of former monarch Zahir Shah's government also welcomed this proposal and are already preparing for participation in the future elections.

A number of Afghan groups who have accommodated themselves to the changing conditions by changing their policy need also cooperate in this plan in order to protect their position in the future of the country.

But with respect to the divisions among the Afghan combatant groups it doesn't seem likely that they can stand in a united front with common views against the decisions that will be imposed on them by the superpowers. And as a result, following the proposed referendum which certainly would be held by the U.N. or under its supervision, the international character of the Afghanistan issue would be changed into a regional or domestic issue whose internal conflicts will result from ethnic and tribal tensions and divisions, and the current international dimensions of the issue will be forgotten.

The Afghan Mujahidin groups who were supposed to gain control of Afghanistan and establish an Islamic government there after the withdrawal of the occupier forces of Soviet Union, have instead opened fire on each other and have stood against their own brothers, resulting in the weakening of these groups and as a consequence the Islamic movement as a whole.

A possible desirable solution to the issue which would become possible in case of unity and cooperation among the Mujahidin, would be the establishment of a united front and attention to the basic issues of the Islamic movement of Afghanistan and end of the internecine conflicts. This would not only result in the realization of the ideals and righteous demands of the Afghan martyrs, it would also thwart the plans of the Superpowers in this country and the region.

Editorial Stresses Need for OPEC Unity

NC1908162990 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Unity of OPEC a Must"]

[Text] Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said Monday that the crisis triggered by Iraq's attack on Kuwait will help reduce the excess oil on the markets and as such there are no grounds for increasing production. He added that the Islamic Republic believes that OPEC members should remain committed to the accord reached at the last OPEC meeting in Geneva. And all OPEC members feel that the decisions of the accord should be abided by, he added.

Meanwhile during the past three days the latest Iranian oil was traded at about $27 per barrel.

What is certain is that the real reason for increase in the price, of oil was due to the Iraqi military invasion and fears of reduced supply of Persian Gulf crude oil. Customers of Iraqi and Kuwait crude are trying very hard to find alternate sources of oil supply.

But considering the strategic oil reserves of the industrialized countries and the crude oil cargoes floating on international waters, at present the increase in the price of oil is not due to shortage of oil supply. However, continuation of tensions in the Persian Gulf and possible expansion of conflict to other countries of the region including Saudi Arabia can aggravate the oil crisis. Such situation can lead to an unprecedented rise in oil prices because three-fourths of the known oil reserves are in the Middle East, and of this, two-thirds exist in the Persian Gulf area.

Moreoever, prolongation of Persian Gulf crisis can encourage further the presence of foreign military forces in this region and help them gain control over some of the oil reserves of the region, ultimately disrupting the long-run planning of OPEC.

On the other hand, feeling of insecurity by certain countries of the Persian Gulf who lack sufficient military power makes them more vulnerable to big powers. It reduces their power of independent decision-making and can ultimately lead to divisions within OPEC, affect its organizational quality and stability. This can be considered as a big blow to the oil producers.

The Islamic Republic of Iran as one of the biggest powers in the region and as one of the most important members of OPEC has proved that it not only respects the decisions of OPEC but in fact, it wants unity and coordination among OPEC members irrespective of any political differences. It believes that with the cooperation of other OPEC members serious steps should be tken to prevent any weakening of OPEC. Moreover, relations among its members should be protected within the framework of economic ties and beyond any thought of political or military equations.

*Egypt Shuts Down Opposition Persian Broadcasts

90AS0289H London KEYHAN in Persian
2 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] On the eve of the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference, which began on 31 July in Cairo, the Egyptian Government stopped broadcasts against the Islamic Republic regime from the two Persian language transmitters which were broadcasting from within that country, and told officials operating the transmitters that they would not be able to use these transmitters for ten days.

On the one hand, although it was said that 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Islamic Republic's foreign minister, would take part in these sessions, last week it was announced that Velayati would not go to Cairo and that the Tehran regime would send only an expert delegation to take part in the conference. Despite this, Egyptian officials, led by 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, that country's foreign minister, tried last week to make it possible for Velayati to attend personally. Among the measures taken was the temporary suspension of broadcasts by the two Iran opposition radio stations. Egyptian officials hoped this would lead to the removal of obstacles for the Islamic Republic's foreign minister.

Following Syrian Presient Hafiz al-Asad's trip to Egypt and his meetings with Husni Mubarak, it was said that the Islamic Republic and Egypt were moving towards the resumption of relations, and that the Syrian president was carrying Tehran's conditions for this resumption. Recently, to show its goodwill toward Egypt, the Islamic Republic released 36 Egyptian fishermen who had been arrested in the final months of the war with Iraq in the waters of the Persian Gulf and were accused of spying. The newspaper INDEPENDENT of London wrote last week that in messages recently exchanged between officials of the Islamic Republic, the Tehran regime resolved to end its propaganda attacks against Egypt concerning its peace treaty with Israel. The radio transmitters that were temporarily closed were Radio Derafsh-e Kaviani and Radio Iran. The first belongs to the Darfesh Kaviani organization led by Dr. Manuchehr Gonji and the second belongs to the political organization of Dr. Shapur Bakhtiar. The cutting of the Egyptian Government's support for Iranians opposed to the Islamic Republic regime was one of the Islamic Republic regime's demands in order to resume relations with Cairo.

In an interview with the Voice of America, Dr. Manuchehr Gonji confirmed the report of that the Egyptian Government had stopped the operation of his organization's radio.

Relations between the Islamic Republic and Egypt darkened and then ended because of Anwar al-Sadat's acceptance of the late shah of Iran after his departure from the country. Khomeyni used the establishment of political relations between Israel and Egypt as a pretext for cutting relations with that country. Recently Besharati, the Islamic Republic's deputy foreign minister, repeated during a trip to the nations of the Persian Gulf that Egypt's relations with Israel is seen as an obstacle to the resumption of relations between Tehran and Cairo. Apparently, however, during the changes of the last one or two months in the foreign policy of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government, this position has been forgotten.

*Military Cooperation With North Korea Discussed

90P40126Z Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
16 Jul 90 p 3

[Text] News Service—Mr. Kim Yong-Nam, the North Korean Foreign Minister, met yesterday with Mr. Mohsen Reza'i, General Commander of the Revolution Guard Corps. Kim Yong-Nam is on a visit to Iran as the head of a high-level delegation.

Ambassadors from the two countries and some officials of the Revolution Guard Corps were also present at this meeting. The expansion of mutual cooperation and specially the joint military committee were discussed and consulted upon.

Basij Forces To Increase to 500,000

90AS0277D Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
4 Jul 90 p 13

[Text] News Service: The commander of the Basij Resistance Forces of the Guards Corps in a ceremony to introduce Mr. Abdullah Rowshan, commander of the Corps for the west Tehran region, announced: Presently Basij has between 100,000 to 150,000 ready and active members all across the nation. We hope that this number, through planning and measures that have been considered for the mobilization of this force, can reach 500,000.

According to our correspondent, Mr. 'Alireza Afshar added: These forces shall be prepared in an organized and coded structure to defend the Islamic homeland and may be deployed expeditiously at the time of unexpected events to fulfill the assigned tasks, under the command of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. These special Basij forces will be expanded in the future to form the foundation of the 20-million member army.

He said: In this regard, training will be a determining factor for the Basij forces. We endeavor to expand the combat, specialized, ideological-political, and cultural training all across the country so that a unified spirit is created in the Basij Resistance Forces.

Mr Afshar added: At the time of need, these forces will be deployed along with the Ground Forces of the IRGC. He then announced that from now on, after the formation of the Basij Resistance Force, the IRGC bases of Tehran will be changed to regional jurisdictions and said: These jurisdictions will continue their activities under the supervision of the Basij Resistance Force.

The commander of the Basij Resistance Forces, referring to the recent earthquake in the north and northwest part of the country, added: The IRGC, by utilizing its capabilities, fully demonstrated its preparedness in rescue efforts and aid to afflicted compatriots. For this reason, we have asked the permission of the exalted leadership and the president so that the civil defense organization includes the Basij Resistance Force. This is designed to enable it, through a unified command, to offer necessary services in unexpected events such as floods, earthquakes, storms, etc.

*Kish Island To Connect To Outside World By Air

90AS0280G London KEYHAN in Persian
19 Jul 90 P 3

[Text] The Kish Island will be connected shortly with various parts of the world through the flights of foreign carriers. The public relations office of Kish Construction Organization recently issued a statement proclaiming that through necessary negotiations with the National Civil Aviation Organization and the preparation of initial technicalities, soon Kish Island will be connected with various parts of the world by air, and in particular, the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf region.

In part of its statement, the public relations of said organization proclaimed that the passport office will shortly be established on this island in order to transform the process of the expansion of Kish Island and provide facilities and opportunities for investments and services for those wishing to participate in production-industrial activities.

The Kish Construction Organization stated that the main goal of setting up the passport office on this island will be to provide for the possibility of direct travel to neighboring countries and also in the creation of facilities and investments for those interested in production-industrial activities.

*Import Permit Waived for Machinery, Airplanes

90AS0289K London KEYHAN in Persian
2 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] The Islamic Republic's Ministry of Heavy Industries issued a list of goods and raw materials needed by the nation's heavy industries for whose import a ministry permit will not be required in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991]. Early last week the Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Heavy Industries announced in a statement that in order to reduce paperwork and administrative difficulties, this ministry's experts have conducted a complete study to set new commercial profit figures for imports of goods used by heavy industries. Although the results of this study were given to the Council of Ministers in the month of Esfand last year [20 February-20 March 1990] along with the necessary proposals, the proposals have not yet been approved and for this reason the ministry has released the entire list to the public.

The text of the statement from the Ministry of Heavy Industries advises those wishing to import goods needed by heavy industry in 1369 to order their import goods without applying to the ministry and without obtaining the import authorization stamp.

The list of goods and raw materials needed by heavy industry without the need for import authorization

includes the following items: high-pressure pipes used by hydroelectric installations, rods and pistons, magnesium, lead, zinc and tin pipes, water storage equipment, medicinal capsule and ampule-making machinery, ampules, equipment to produce and fill serum and medicinal ampules and to meter liquid medicinal substances, equipment to fill and seal containers to mix medicinal liquids and powders, fruit press and compote equipment, and fruit juicers and catsup equipment, equipment to package and wrap various kinds of chocolate and gum, weaving equipment, spare parts for spinning and weaving equipment, various kinds of sewing machines, shoe-making machines, tobacco-processing machinery, wire-and cable-making machinery, air compressors, pumps, gas oil, hydroelectric pumps, single-phase electrical paper presses, paper milling machines, honing machines, equipment to break up and dig out asphalt, arc furnaces, hydromotors, various ball bearings, electrical grinding wheels, drills, and other electrical hand tools, direct current electric motors, generators with power than 120 kilowatt hours, motors with more than 200 horsepower, trucks with a capacity greater than 25 tons, dump trucks, various kinds of lift trucks, chain-driven tractors, various kinds of helicopters, aircraft and their parts, bulldozers with more than 400 horsepower, grading machines, mechanical shovels with more than 180 horsepower, excavating systems, various kinds of hydraulic hammers, various kinds of asphalt-digging machinery, and various kinds of drifters [as published] and steel valves.

*Paper Reports on Poverty, Corruption

90AS0280C London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Jul 90 p 8

[Text] The correspondent for the weekly SUNDAY OBSERVER, published in London, in a shocking report about the level of poverty and corruption in the Islamic Republic wrote that employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic, from desperation, ask for payoffs in order to renew visas for foreign residents of Tehran. Shiam Bahatia wrote: "Employees of the passport bureau of the Foreign Ministry in the grand hallways of the ministry which have been marked by the two designations of "Study and Action" fill out the forms and papers that are required for extensions of visas by foreigners. By paying additional fees, the required work is completed within one hour. No receipt is given and the amount requested by employees of the Foreign Ministry is pathetically small. But nevertheless it is equivalent to a week's salary of employees whose lives have been devastated by the revolution."

The SUNDAY OBSERVER correspondent writes: "Average salaries are pathetically low. An Army Colonel takes home the equivalent of $65 at the end of the month. This is when a pack of cigarettes costs $1, a sandwich is 70 cents and rent for a room in the center of Tehran is $45, of course after paying a $10,000 deposit. Therefore, it is not surprising that beggars have filled the streets or taxis are run by university professors who are desperate to take food to their families. Corruption has covered all levels of the government.

*'Economic Terrorist' Sentenced to 20 Years

90AS0277A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 14 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] Qom—Correspondent of the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI: An economic terrorist charged with economic abuse during the war—totaling 8 billion rials from hoarding, price gouging, sabotaging the economic security, and bribery—and considered as a corrupt-on-earth person in the indictment against him, was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment by the Islamic Revolution Court of Qom city region.

According to the report by our correspondent, Seyyed 'Ali Sharifiyun, who was recently tried in the Islamic Revolution Court of the Qom region, lacked any financial capability prior to the year 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983]. In the course of several years, by selling government subsidized foreign exchange and rationed goods on the black market, he accumulated 8 billion rials. He is the proprietor of three companies—Zar, Zarrin, and Albaseh. This person, the prime suspect accused in the case, was sentenced by the Islamic Revolution Court of Qom to 20 years imprisonment; he must return all foreign exchange appropriated from the government, and pay fines equal to the value of the foreign exchange taken from the government. Seyyed 'Abulqasem Sharifiyun, the second defendant charged with participating in the crimes, was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment; he must return the original amount of foreign exchange appropriated from the government—relative to his one-half share in the Zar Company; pay cash fines equal to the appropriated foreign exchange. His company will be confiscated by the government. The third co-defendant, Mohammad 'Azhdari, accused of participating in the crimes and in relation to his share in the Zar Company—considering the extenuating circumstances in the punishment [as published]—was sentenced to a seven years' suspended sentence; he must pay 20 million tomans of his profits. The accused, numbers 4 to 23 and number 27, as mentioned in the indictment, were charged with aiding and abetting in the commission of crimes and assisting the first two defendants. Based on their degree of participation in the commission of the crimes, they were sentenced to suspended jail terms ranging from one to five years, and, in some cases, they must pay fines in proportion to their acquired profits.

The report by our correspondent also indicates that as the trial of Seyyed 'Ali Sharifiyun was the first experience in open trials of major economic terrorists, there seems to be a need for closer attention to some existing shortcomings. The first substantial fault of this court was its lack of authority over the accused; that is, the court resembled more a debate than a trial. Another fault was its failure to hold a follow-up session. At the end of the court's first session the religious judge announced that

the next session would be held on the following day, but the session was not held on that day. Finally, another fundamental difficulty was the failure to openly try the rest of the defendants. These shortcomings are the result of unsuccessful experiences regarding such open trials. It is hoped that the appropriate officials will erase any doubts or questions in the people's mind by resolving these shortcomings.

*Law Enforcement Forces Dissatisfied With Merger

90AS0289G London KEYHAN in Persian
2 Aug 90 p 3

[Text] One month after the approval of the Police Force Consolidation Law, the Gendarmerie, the sheriff's offices, and the Islamic Committees are each trying in some way to preserve their identities in the framework of the new Police Force Organization, and they are expressing their unhappiness about being consolidated into this organization.

In a Tehran seminar, Mokhtar Kalantari, commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Committees, to reassure the Revolution Guards of the Revolution Committees about the consolidation of the police forces, announced that Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the regime's leader, emphasized in a message to the Revolution Guards of the Revolution Committees that the name "Committee Revolution Guards" and their role in the Police Force Organization will be preserved. Yet no such provision is made in this law.

Last week the nation's Gendarmerie forces observed Gendarmerie Day more elaborately than in previous years, and ten Gendarmerie helicopters and planes dropped roses on Khomeyni's grave from the air. According to the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, General Sohrabi, the Gendarmerie commander, and the commanders of the Gendarmerie units stationed in Central Province went to Khomeyni's grave and beat their chests and chanted eulogies.

The only person who seems to be happy about the consolidation of the Gendarmerie and the sheriff's offices is General Amanollah Morteza, the new chief of the National Sheriff's Office. One month ago General Niknezhad, the former chief of the National Sheriff's Offices, declared that the consolidation of the sheriff's offices with the other police forces is unconstitutional, and was fired. Amanollah Morteza was promoted to general and appointed to replace General Niknezhad.

*Government Bill To Control Housing Prices

90AS0289I London KEYHAN in Persian
2 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] The enormous increase in the cost of housing, the chaos in the real estate market, as well as the continuous and unprecedented high cost of land, have prompted a group of Majles deputies to prepare and submit to the Majles a law requiring the government to set the sale and the purchase price of housing units and to control the price of land and housing in the country. Various provisions are in the text of the proposal, and if it becomes law and if it can be enforced, government officials will take control of the price of land, houses and housing units, and in addition, they will supervise directly the activities of brokers and dealers in land and property.

On the basis of this naive proposal, in transactions involving the sale or purchase of housing units, buyers and sellers will be required to observe the values set for housing units in each district of the nation's various cities, which will be set according to a formula: the value of supplementary services plus the foundation area of the housing unit times the cost established for a square foot of building space in the country, plus the regional value of the land, equals the value of the housing unit.

In a note appended to this article it is explained that every two years the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development must set the necessary average cost of building a square meter of a housing unit in the country and the regional value of the land for each of the nation's various cities, and provide these figures to the relevant enforcement organization. In another note it is stated that the value of the supplementary services of housing units mentioned in the formula in the above article—and in this regard a number of housing units have supplementary services such as telephones, gas and other things—will be calculated as no more than ten percent of the total foundation cost of the housing u it, and will be set as agreed by the two parties to the tra action.

Note Four of the proposal regulates the commission on the sale of the housing unit. In this note it is explained that sellers of housing units, in addition to taking the maximum value of the housing unit, will be authorized to take a commission no larger than ten percent of the value of the housing unit from the purchaser.

One article in the proposal limits the activities of the real estate and land brokerage foundations. This article states that no more than four months after this law is enacted the sheriff's offices throughout the country must terminate the activities of real estate brokerage foundations operating without official authorization (unlicensed), and to prosecute violators through the appropriate judicial authorities. The first note attached to this article states: The nation's sheriff's offices must review the general competence (moral and financial) of those real estate brokerage foundations now operating under license, and if they have the legal qualifications, they must reissue their official permits, and if they lack the necessary legal qualifications, they must revoke their permits.

Another note states: In issuing permits for the activities of the real estate brokerage foundations, the sheriff's offices throughout the country must plan their activities in such a way that in cities with fewer than 500,000 there is a real estate brokerage foundation for every 10,000 persons, and in cities with more than 500,000 there is a real estate brokerage foundation for every 20,000 persons.

Pakistan

Foreign Minister on 'Defensive' Role of Military

BK2808161290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said he held in-depth talks with the governments of Iran, Turkey, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia for facilitating the return of Pakistanis from Iraq. In a press statement issued on return to Karachi today after a visit to the Gulf region, he said all these countries have promised full cooperation in providing humanitarian assistance to Pakistanis. He said a high-level Pakistan delegation is now visiting these countries to finalize agreements on evacuating Pakistanis.

The foreign minister said the Saudi leadership greatly appreciated the gesture of solidarity expressed by Pakistan in sending a military contingent to defend holy places in Mecca and al-Madinah. He clarified that this contingent will only play a defensive role inside Saudi territory and will not be a part of the American or any international command.

Meanwhile, more than 1,300 Pakistanis returned home today by five special flights from Riyadh and Amman. They had arrived in Saudi Arabia and Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq. It is expected that Pakistan International Airlines will bring home 760 stranded Pakistanis tomorrow. The national airlines has so far brought back over 7,700 Pakistanis since the 17th of this month.

Minister Says Not To Increase Oil Prices

BK2908025490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Retired Lieutenant General Abdul Majid Malik, the federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, said the oil situation in the country has improved during the last two weeks and that the government has decided not to increase oil prices. In an interview last night, he said the government is taking concrete steps like on-the-spot buying and calling for short and long-term tenders, so as not to put pressure on the consumers. He disclosed that Pakistan is exploring new oil markets in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei to meet the shortfall in oil supply caused by the grave Gulf situation. The government is also sending delegations to these countries. The petroleum minister also explained the government's plans to cut oil consumption, increase oil refining capacity, and to establish two more oil refineries.

Minister Rejects Rumor About President's Health

BK2908020090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Federal Commerce Minister Elahi Bux Sumro assured the Senate last night that the government is investigating into the rumor spread on Monday [27 August] about the health of the president. He was speaking on a call-attention notice moved in this connection by Tariq Chaudhary, Professor Khurshid Ahmad, and Shafi Iqbal. The members demanded that the government take a strong note of this rumor and set up a committee to investigate it. Condemning the elements responsible for spreading the rumor, the commerce minister said the government is investigating the matter. He said a report appeared in the daily MUSAWAT on 25 August alleging that the president was going abroad for medical treatment and would return home after the general elections. He said the report has already been rejected. Elahi Bux Sumro said the rumor and the fabricated report in the newspaper seem to be interrelated.

Special Courts for Speedy Trial Ordinance Issued

BK2808163490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The president has promulgated the Special Courts for Speedy Trial Ordinance 1990. It provides for the establishment of special courts for trial on certain offenses punishable under the Pakistan Penal Code or the Prevention of Corruption Act 1947 which in the opinion of the government were gruesome, brutal, and sensational in character or sapping the public morality or had led to public [word indistinct] or created panic or an atmosphere of fear or anxiety among the public or a section of people.

The ordinance will come into force at once.

Spokesman Clarifies Process of Accountability

BK2908085590 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] An official spokesman in Islamabad has clarified that the process of accountability is to be carried out under the existing laws of the land and have been existing on the statute book since 1977 without having ever been questioned. He was commenting on reports describing the said laws as dead laws. He said the two laws—the Holders of Representative Office Prevention of Misconduct Act 1976 and the Parliament and Provincial Assemblies Disqualification for Members Act 1976—were promulgated during the former prime minister, late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's government. These special courts for accountability are being constituted under these laws which were later amended to bring them in conformity with the demands of justice. The spokesman emphasized that the process of accountability is not to be misconstrued as general screening of the holders of public office. In fact, it was meant to probe into specific acts of corruption, misconduct, misadministration, and other wrongdoings alleged to have been committed by public representatives. As regards the period to be covered, he pointed out that the accountability was the continuous process and was not confined to any specific time-frame. The spokesman reiterated government's resolve to satisfy public demand in pursuing the accountability and assured that the process would be carried out in a most fair, just, and impartial manner.

Portfolios of Seven New Ministers Announced

BK2808164690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Portfolios have been allocated to the seven federal ministers who took oath in Islamabad yesterday. The ministers and their portfolios are: Qazi Abdul Majid Abid, Education; Pir Aftab Hussain Shah, Food, Agriculture, and Cooperatives; Chaudhury Amir Hussain, Law, Justice, and parliamentary Affairs; D.r (Noor Jahan panezoi), Health, Special Education, and Social Welfare; Makhdum Shafiquzzaman, Culture and Tourism; Mr. Nasib Mengal, Labor and Overseas Pakistanis; Mr. Islam Nabi, Housing and Works.

IJI Body To Negotiate With Other Parties

BK2808164890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The Secretary General of Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [IJI] Prof. Ghafoor Ahmad, said in Lahore today that IJI has formed a high-powered five-member body for talks with other like-minded parties for their inclusion in IJI. The decision of the committee regarding the election alliance with others will be final.

Four Candidates Compete for Premiership

BK2608034690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0247 GMT 26 Aug 90

[By Shah Alam]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 26 (AFP)—Four Pakistani politicians are well placed to compete for the prime minister's slot against deposed Premier Benazir Bhutto as parties form alignments and strategy for the promised October 24 elections. They are Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) President Nawaz Sharif, caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, former Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, and late military ruler Gen. Mohammad Ziaul Haq's eldest son, Ejazul Haq.

The quartet belongs to the IJI, an eight-party front that spearheaded a bitter campaign against Ms. Bhutto who was sacked by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on August 6. Mr. Sharif and Mr. Ejaz are prominent figures in the Muslim League, headed by Mr. Junejo. Their party forms the backbone of the IJI, along with the fundamentalist Jamiat-e-Islami. Mr. Jatoi, a moderate, leads another IJI component, the National People's Party (NPP)—a breakaway group of Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) he formed in the late 1980s.

Analysts say a tussle for the top office is bound to emerge in the moderate-conservative alliance if it wins the elections in which Western diplomats here suggest Ms. Bhutto's chances of return to power appear to be slim. Among the likely contenders, Mr. Sharif, 42, a law graduate, is a top industrialist who enjoys considerbale influence in Punjab Province where 60 percent of the 207 seats are at stake. He served as chief minister of the populous province for seven years until the August 6 dissolution of the legislature.

He became the main challenger to Ms. Bhutto when the PPP lost in Punjab and later emerged as the central figure behind a failed no-confidence move against her in November. Owner of the Ittefaq Group of Industries, Mr. Sharif established himself as leader of Punjab which provides most of the 500,000-strong Pakistan Army. A former close confidant of the late Zia who patronized his rapid rise in politics, Mr. Sharif has been an ardent supporter of the general's legacy of Islamization. He defended Zia against an orchesterated condemnation of the 11-year "dark era of dictatorship" by Ms. Bhutto and her partymen.

Mr. Jatoi, 58, comes from a politically influential feudal family of Nawabshah in Ms. Bhutto's home province of Sindh. Mr. Jatoi polled record votes in his first election in 1962. His political career got a boost under Ms. Bhutto's late father, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, serving as federal minister and later as chief minister of Sindh before the first PPP government was toppled by Gen. Zia in July 1977.

As president of PPP Sindh, he was active in the anti-martial law movement in 1985, but resigned from the party a year later following differences with Ms. Bhutto and formed the NPP. In 1988 he failed to win a seat in the National Assembly as the PPP wave swept Sindh, but was later elected in a by-election from Punjab with the support of his friend Ghulam Mustafa Khar, a PPP dissident.

Mr. Ejazul Haq, 38, chief organizer of the Pakistan Muslim League is a former official of the Bank of America in Bahrain. He entered active politics in the wake of the first anniversary of the death of his father last year when a massive crowd assembled at Zia's tomb here. Founding a charitable "Zia foundation" he set up a nationwide network which is apparently aimed at mustering popular support for the rising politician. At the second anniversary of Zia's death on August 17, foundation workers at the front of the big crowd, hailed Ejaz as future prime minister. Political commentators rate as fairly strong his chances of making a mark in politics as bearer of the mission of his father, whose memory continues to strike a responsive chord among the religious minded.

Mr. Junejo, with a diploma from a British agricultural institute, hails from Sindh's landed class. He came to political prominence in 1985 when Zia appointed him prime minister after the partyless polls in 1985. To the displeasure of Zia, he organized PML within the assembly, converting it into a party-based house. Mr. Junejo, quietly asserting his authority, developed differences with the military strongman. He approved the signing of the Geneva Accord in April 1988 for the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan against the wishes of Gen. Zia.

As Mr. Junejo returned home from a foreign tour on May 29, 1988, Gen. Zia sprang a surprise by dissolving the National Assembly and sacking the Junejo government. He maintained his party but lost elections held in 1988 after Zia's sudden death in a mysterious plane crash.

Bhutto Denies Party Involved in Sindh Events

BK2808160290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] The co-chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said that her party believes in peaceful political struggle. She said the propaganda that her party is involved in subversive activities in Sindh is false. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad this evening, she said her party never supported terrorism, but has worked for promoting peace.

Earlier, addressing newsmen in Multan, she criticized the setting up of special tribunals and said the trial of elected leaders in these tribunals is undemocratic.

Afghan Resistance Official Visits Libya

BK2808164090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1614 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 28 (AFP)—A minister of the Mujahedeen Afghan Interim Government (AIG) visited Libya last week and met with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the AIG information agency here said Tuesday. Burhanuddin Rabbani, reconstruction minister in the Pakistan-based AIG, spent six days in Libya at the invitation of the Libyan International Islamic Society.

He discussed Afghanistan and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait with Col. al-Qadhdhafi and other political and religious figures in Libya, the AIG said. This was the first reported visit of a Mujahedeen leader to Libya, which did not join Islamic condemnation of Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan that ended in February 1989.

Citizens Arrive on Flights From Amman 24 Aug

BK2408160690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] More than 500 Pakistani citizens have arrived in Karachi from Amman today through three special flights of Pakistani International Airlines [PIA]. Earlier, these citizens reached Amman from Kuwait. PIA will operate one special flight from Riyadh to Jeddah and two Boeing flights from Amman through which about 750 Pakistanis will be brought back home. So far, PIA has brought back more than 4,500 Pakistanis through 12 special flights and by extending the routes of three Jumbo flights on the New York-Karachi section to Amman since last Friday [17 August].

150 Citizens Flee Kuwait by Road via Iran

BK2808085690 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Another 150 stranded Pakistanis comprising women and children from Kuwait arrived in Quetta last night by road via Iran. A spokesman of Overseas Pakistanis Foundation told Radio Pakistan's Quetta representative this morning that so far 85 families from Kuwait have arrived in Pakistan via Iran. The Foundation has set up a relief camp at (Daftan) to receive the incoming Pakistanis from Kuwait and made special travel arrangements for those who do not have their own transport for the onward journey from (Daftan) to Quetta.

Suspected 'Enemy' Spy Held at Islamabad Airport

BK2908102590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 29 Aug 90 p 8

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 28—The ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] and Airport Security Force [ASF] personnel today nabbed a Pakistani national of Christian origin suspected to be an undercover agent for an enemy country while he was about to board PK-301, a domestic flight from Islamabad to Karachi.

According to reports, ASF men held up a Mardan-based Pakistani Christian, Ivan Richards, as the hold-baggage checking machine monitered an automatic revolver in his baggage.

The revolver recovered from baggage was loaded with full 9 rounds. The ASF sources say that the weapon was placed in the base portion of the plastic bag.

The security personnel, on thorough checking of the baggage, also recovered some sensitive documents relating to the security of the country. These documents are said to have established accused's links with India.

Preliminary investigations by ASF and ISI men, sources say, revealed that the arrested accused intended to go to Moscow enroute Karachi. These sources say that Ivan Richard is a student at a Medical Institution in Moscow, where he was admitted in 1986.

The accused in the course of his interrogation reportedly disclosed that he took admission in the Moscow medical institution with the help of a Pakistani political party.

Contact Lost With Spacecraft Since 20 Aug

BK2908102990 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 29 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Karachi, Aug 28—Contact with Badr-1, Pakistan's first spacecraft launched on July 16, 1990, has not been established since August 20.

The possible reasons for the loss of signals is being investigated and SUPARCO [Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission] engineers are continuing their efforts to establish the contact with Badr-1, official sources said here on Tuesday.

The lifetime of Badr-1, was anticipated as 5 to 6 months and till August 20, Badr-1, completed more than 500 orbits around the earth and successfully delivered valuable data.—PPI [PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL]